Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 221

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Bipartisan bill will boost Marianas infrastructure' PAGE 5

Skiff with 6 persons on board missing off FSM. PAGE 12

$1

IN TRACING ORIGIN OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

'Noncompliant essential worker eyed as culprit'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has information that links the recent influx in community cases of COVID-19 to a non-compliant essential worker.

That person is, however, no longer in the CNMI, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña.

Speaking during Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' weekly radio news briefing last Friday, Muña said that, after contact tracing that led to that noncompliant essential worker, he/she was brought back to a quarantine site and that the essential worker then decided to leave the CNMI after not being allowed to exit quarantine. Muña did not identify the affected essential worker.

She defined an essential worker as someone whose

See WORKER on Page 4

'WE GOT SHOT!'

From left, Cherlotte and Francis Figueroa, Cali Cabrera, Gabriel Rapanut and Kalyster Peredo, and Miko Gabriel Delgado proudly display their bandages after receiving their first shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, is now offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to ages 5 to 11 year olds, starting last Nov. 6, 2021. The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center is open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 4pm to administer COVID-19 vaccines to persons aged 5 and older. Register online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, walk in, or call (670) 682-SHOT (7468). Free rides are available to and from your COVID-19 vaccination appointment. Parent consent forms are required for minors who are unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and are available at www.vaccinatecnmi.com. It is requested that a valid government-issued ID or birth certificate be presented at the time of registration. School-based vaccination is being planned at selected schools, to be announced at a later date.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

20 cases since Thursday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty new cases of COVID-19 were identified since Thursday last week, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which means there are now 59 active cases in the CNMI: 46 identified through contact tracing, 10 through community-based testing, and three through arrival testing.

See CASES on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- 'Testing 1% of population regularly is impressive' **PAGE 3**
- Torres excited with arrival of COVID pediatric vaccine doses. **PAGE 3**

NMC set to reopen today; PSS aiming for Nov. 15 target

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will be reopening its campus today, while the CNMI Public School System has tentatively set its reopening date on Nov. 15.

In separate announcements last Friday, NMC said it will

See NMC on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:03pm, Nov. 7, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	84%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,928
Fully Vaccinated:	29,957
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,909
Fully Vaccinated:	4,745
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	898

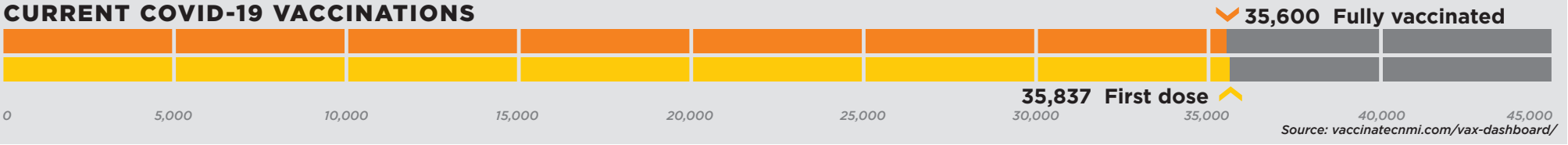
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	18,507	132[1]	18,639
Recovered	15,754	27	15,781
Active	2,478	132	2,610
Deaths	248	0	248

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	330	20[2]	350
Traced via Travel Screening	256	0	256
Traced via Community Screening	73	1	74
Deaths	3	0	3

[1]11/07=15; 11/06=38; 11/05=79
[2]11/04=9; 11/05=4; 11/06=7

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority visit Da'ok Academy.

PAGE 2

LOCAL
The Rotary Club of Saipan's Halloween event, "No Tricks, Just Treats," is a success.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
The crowd at a Houston music festival suddenly surged toward the stage, killing eight people.

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Marianas Tourism Education Counci board member Catherine Perry discusses safe travel with students Da'ok Academy in Koblerville, Saipan last Oct. 28, 2021.

MTEC

Students of Da'ok Academy in Koblerville, Saipan, learn about tourism and the Marianas Visitors Authority on Oct. 28, 2021. Pictured are students, Marianas Tourism Education Council acting chair Vicky Benavente, second from left, and other MTEC and MVA representatives.

MTEC

MTEC visits Da'ok Academy before COVID-19 shutdown

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority squeezed in one school presentation on tourism at Da'ok Academy last month before Saipan schools were shut down due to community spread of COVID-19.

MTEC took its message of "Safe Travels & Marianas Tourism" to the Co-op Education Class of teacher Joan Reyes on Oct. 28, 2021.

"The timing is ironic," said MTEC acting chair Vicky Benavente. "The unfortunate but necessary closure of schools underscores the pertinence of our tourism message this year, making a safe Marianas for visitors and residents, alike. We hope to be able to finish our presentations as soon as schools reopen so we can engage more students on how tourism, safety, jobs, and their futures are all connected."

MTEC board member Catherine Perry shared an introduction to Marianas tourism, general standards visitors look for to feel safe visiting a destination, an overview of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program, and what students can do to support tourism. MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda detailed the overall responsibilities of the MVA in promoting The Marianas.

MTEC will host a meeting this month for advisers of school Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, or MY WAVE, clubs. MTEC encourages each school to form a MY WAVE Club and conduct activities to engage their members with tourism, such as conducting beach cleanups, offering cultural performances for visitors, exploring careers in the travel industry, or others. Clubs will be eligible to send representatives to the MTEC Tourism Summit scheduled for next spring.

To support MY WAVE Clubs, MTEC offers adviser incentives for clubs that meet certain criteria and offers other club support upon request. In addition, MTEC will offer two high school scholarships this year to graduating seniors who have been a member of a MY WAVE Club for at least one year during high school and who meet other criteria. Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club may contact Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or 664-3200.

MTEC presents annually to public schools and is targeting 10th grade in school year 2021-2022. Other MTEC board members are Martin Duenas (Marianas Visitors Authority), Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). Dr. Yunzi Zhang of the NMC School of Business also volunteers with the council. ***(MTEC)***

Saipan Tribune
Make it your DAILY habit.

‘Testing 1% of population regularly is impressive’

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI being able to test 1% of its population regularly is “impressive” and is “excellent testing capacity,” according to Stephanie Kern-Allely, who is regional communicable disease epidemiologist for the Pacific Island Health Officers Association.

Kern-Allely, who was deployed to the CNMI to assist and provide epidemiology services, said in a virtual news briefing Wednesday last week that, based on the previous census data that logs the CNMI’s total population at around 50,000 people, regularly conducting almost 500 COVID-19 tests is an “adequate number.”

“Testing 1% of our population [regularly] is pretty impressive numbers. ...That’s already a pretty excellent testing capacity, and I know our team is always working towards improving our laboratory efforts all the time,” she said.

Also participating in the Wednesday briefing were Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña and CHCC chief of ancillary services Jesse Tudela.

When asked how CHCC determines how many community-based testing slots to open and when to open up community-based testing, Muña said Wednesday that CHCC consults reports from its contact tracing team, how many individuals are determined as persons under investigation, or PUIs, and the availability of tests.

“We are still looking at the contact tracing report. That is our guide...to determine what’s out there as well as to determine if there’s a need to go out and [expand] community-based testing. ...A first case in the community was a decision-maker for us, but how many [testing slots] to make available for the community usually depends on what we’re seeing as positive cases from the PUIs, as well as the availability of testing,” said Muña.

Tudela assured that the CNMI is not running out of COVID-19 test kits, saying that CHCC received a restock of supplies last Oct. 30.

According to Tudela, for CHCC’s surveillance testing events since Oct. 29, maximum slots have been either 376 or 470, and added that close to 500 individuals are tested regularly and that this estimate does not include the ongoing testing of PUIs and incoming travelers, which would further increase this number.

Tudela also said that on Nov. 8 and 10, CHCC will be holding free surveillance testing from noon to 3pm at Mariana Resort & Spa. Walk-ins will not be accepted, and those interested in getting tested can register at https://covidtesting.chcc.health. Tudela said that there will be 470 slots on both days.

According to Tudela, CHCC, in collaboration with the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, has been testing people in the CNMI for COVID-19 since the early part of last year. Testing efforts so far have included border testing, which encompasses first and fifth-day arrival testing of those who were on flights or ships, and the testing of Travel Bubble participants.

Tudela also shared that community-based testing at the Kanoa Resort has been happening regularly since March 15 this year, and that antigen COVID-19 testing at schools is conducted on a quarterly basis.

The first round of school-based testing took place in August this year at the start of the CNMI Public School System school year, and the second round of testing took place last last week, which helped identify three positive community cases.

Torres excited over arrival of COVID pediatric vaccine doses

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is excited with the arrival of over 2,000 pediatric doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine as this will be an opportunity to having children from age 5 to 11 get vaccinated.

“That will cover a whole new spectrum of ages and that’s what we want. We want to give this opportunity for our children,” said Torres during a a radio news briefing.

He hopes the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the COVID-19 Task Force will work together to see what they can do to mandate children vaccination.

He said he will have his children vaccinated.

As to the protocol that will be implemented if a positive case pops up in school again, Torres said they have not finalized that yet with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña and COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez.

“But that is definitely something that we continue to look at. So there’s a lot of possibilities. And also one important thing is that it’s fluid. We say one thing and the next time, it may change,” Torres said.

The governor emphasized they follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Your dependable money source has your HOLIDAY CASH!

Express Financial loans are easy as 1-2-3

EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.

Helping you succeed financially is our top priority. In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.

Close a loan this Holiday Season and receive a $15.00 Gift Certificate redeemable at
Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store
Town House FURNITURE & APPLIANCES
A Subsidiary of Jones & Guerrero Company, Inc.
Offer expires: January 15th, 2022

3 EASY WAYS TO APPLY
CALL 671.637.9834 (Guam) or 670.235.6032 (Saipan) and apply with our friendly staff over the phone.
FAX attached application to 671.633.0412 (Guam) or 670.235.6040 (Saipan).
Visit us online www.myexpressfinancial.com.

QUICK APPLICATION
PRIMARY APPLICANT
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____
SECONDARY APPLICANT
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Town House Shopping Center
Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (across Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
P.O. Box 504084, Saipan MP 96950 | Tel. (670) 235-6032

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950

VOUCHER ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Purpose: To address disaster related needs and service delivery in the form of voucher allowance for eligible school-aged children who were directly displaced by Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu.

Funding for the CSBG-DS Voucher Program will be made available on a first come – first served basis for:

Saipan	120 students
Tinian	40 students
Rota	40 students

Eligible items:
- Hygienical Supplies
- School Supplies
- Cleaning Supplies
- Clothing
- Beddings

Registration deadline:
November 12, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements:
- Must meet income eligibility requirements.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or an Eligible Alien.
- Was residing in the CNMI during Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu.
- Currently living in FEMA tent, with neighbors, family members, or friends as a result of the disaster.
- Currently living in the CNMI.
- Child(ren) are enrolled in School Year 2021-2022.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL DYS OFFICE AT YOUR RESPECTIVE ISLAND:
- Kagman Community Center, Saipan: 237-1017 / 1018
- DYS Administration Office, Saipan: 237-1000 / 1001 / 1002
- DYS Office, Tinian: 433-9272
- DYS Office, Rota: 532-9333

For additional inquiries, please call or email:
Jennifer Tanaka: 237-1017, via email at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp
Nina Nekaifes: 237-1018, via email at nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp

This program is made possible by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-20) Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Man arrested for allegedly choking wife over salty food

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety arrested a man last week for allegedly choking his wife for serving him a meal that had "too much" sodium.

According to a complaint filed against the suspect, Edward D. San Nicolas Jr., 30, was arrested in the early hours of Nov. 3 for allegedly choking and slapping his wife because she put soy sauce on his tuna and rice along with ichiban, which upset him because the meal had "too much" sodium.

San Nicolas was brought to the Department of Corrections facility to be booked and detained on charges of disturbing the peace, assault and battery, domestic violence, and strangulation.

Following his bail hearing last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted San Nicolas' request to be released on a $10,000 unsecured bond. He was released released to his third-party custodian, his mother, and was ordered to return to court on Nov. 10, at 10am for a preliminary hearing.

The complaint stated that DPS had responded to a domestic violence-in-progress call at around 1:56am on Nov. 3, made by San Nicolas' wife who claimed that her husband choked her in their home in Kagman 3.

At the scene, officers were flagged down by a man who directed them to the home where San Nicolas and his girlfriend were having an argument. Police knocked on the door and were met by San Nicolas and his wife.

When police asked the victim about the choking incident she called in, she told the responding officers that her husband did choke her but she did not want to file a complaint.

The victim told police that San Nicolas returned home from his uncle's house drunk at around 1:30am and asked her to make him tuna and ichiban for dinner.

She said she put soy sauce on the rice before serving him the meal and he got upset and complained that the meal had too much sodium in it.

The victim said as San Nicolas continue to complain, she went into their bedroom but San Nicolas followed her and continued to argue about his food. The victim said she told San Nicolas to "be grateful" that she prepared a meal for him despite how late it was, San Nicolas allegedly got more upset and cussed her.

She told officers that she also cussed San Nicolas, prompting him to hit her with a pillow, causing her to fall. When she stood up, San Nicolas allegedly slapped her so she kicked him in the stomach. San Nicolas then proceeded to choke her for about three to five seconds before she punched him on the head and kicked him off. That was when she picked up her phone and dialed 911.

In a separate interview with San Nicolas while he was in Department of Corrections custody, he claimed that he didn't mean to hurt his wife, he just got so upset because she knew about his health condition and that too much sodium is not good for him.

He also claims he got more upset by the things she was saying to him while they were arguing.

NEW ZONING BOARD MEMBER
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administers last week the oath of office to Edna Grace Rios Nisola, whose appointment to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning board of directors was recently approved by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CASES

From Page 1

As of Nov. 6, the CNMI's total number of COVID-19 cases is now 350.

From last Thursday to Saturday, CHCC put out three separate news releases that reported that nine cases were identified Thursday, four on Friday, and seven on Saturday.

CHCC said Thursday that nine were identified and confirmed positive through surveillance testing and travel screening on Nov. 3 and 4, and that a total of 628 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Nov. 3 comprising travel and surveillance testing.

CHCC said Friday that four were identified and confirmed positive through surveillance testing on Nov. 4, and that a total of 840 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Nov. 4 comprising travel and surveillance testing.

CHCC said Saturday that seven were identified and confirmed positive through surveillance testing on Nov. 5, and that a total of 655 tests were conducted on Nov. 5 comprising travel and surveillance testing.

In all three releases over the weekend, CHCC said the affected individuals have since been quarantined and are being actively monitored. CHCC also assures that its Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already reached out to those who were in closest contact with the new cases and that the team will continue its efforts "until all probable cases are identified and tested".

CHCC also said that its contact tracers have reached out to contacts who are deemed high risk, and that "the associated risk of infection depends on the level of exposure, which will, in turn, determine the type of monitoring." CHCC added that establishing the level of exposure can be difficult and requires investigation.

For individuals in the community experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, and new loss of taste or smell, CHCC asks those concerned to see their healthcare providers or call the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at 670-233-2067.

NMC

From Page 1

be resuming classes today, with guidance from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. PSS said it is preparing its schools and taking all necessary precautions to reopen schools for in-person learning.

In an email message to its students and faculty, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero urged the NMC community to take note of the following advisories: supervisors are authorized to allow teleworking and/or continued virtual/online learning on a case-by-case basis through Nov. 12; everyone on campus should follow NMC's COVID-19 mitigation procedures and protocols; NMC remains committed to keeping campus facilities clean; each should do their part in helping limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community; and to stay informed via official sources.

Deleon Guerero acknowledged that some members of the NMC community may still feel uneasy with returning in-person to campus, and added that there may be some students having challenges in securing childcare for PSS students while PSS works toward its tentative Nov. 15 reopening date.

For these reasons, Deleon Guerrero said that supervisors are allowed to authorize telework, and instructors are allowed to continue virtual/ online learning for the week of Nov. 8 to 12. Deleon Guerrero added that employees must secure approval from their supervisors to go through with telework/online learning and that students must wait on official word from their instructors about continuing on with online learning.

Deleon Guerrero urged everyone who will be on campus this week to wear masks, practice social distancing, wash their hands regularly, and he reminded all employees and face-to-face students "to get vaccinated as recently mandated."

He added that all facilities, fixtures, and furniture have undergone deep cleaning and sanitation in the past week, and that instructors and students are advised to refrain from moving furniture around as they have been placed in such ways to ensure social distancing.

For further information on the dynamic and quickly evolving situation, Deleon Guerrero encouraged the NMC community to monitor official sources with the latest information, which include NMC's emails, website at marianas.edu, and social media platforms @nmc.proa on Facebook and Instagram and @GoProa on Twitter; announcements from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.; and announcements from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Deleon Guerrero likened the NMC community to a *proa*, which is an indigenous canoe that is also the college's logo. Deleon Guerrero said that learning comes first and that the NMC *proa* "has endured turbulent waters" several times before.

"As I often say, our *proa* has endured turbulent waters, but we continue to sail through it all, no matter what comes our way. And as we sail ahead with a focus on learning first, let us lift the tide for everyone," he said.

Acting Education commissioner Eric M. Magofna put out a memorandum last Friday, saying that PSS' target date to reopen schools for in-person learning is tentatively set for Nov. 15. He said "the rigorous implementation of deep cleaning and COVID spraying with vendors in all our schools and offices will require ample time to complete," hence the Nov. 15 target date.

Magofna reiterated that the safety and protection of PSS' students are paramount, and that PSS leaders will welcome back its students "with a high standard of precautionary measures and care in all our schools."

Magofna said that PSS will soon be broadcasting an update to confirm the target date for reopening schools for in-person learning.

WORKER

From Page 1

work involves life, safety, and health. "It is practically anyone that that is classified as [an] essential worker by the federal government. And that is federal information that is basically shared to everyone," said Muna on the radio.

An essential worker is one listed in the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Advisory List from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Security Agency: http://www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors. But being on this list doesn't mean travelers applying for this release will be considered essential—the work has to be essential for the residents and infrastructure of the CNMI.

For travelers to apply for this release, they'll need to submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival; copy of departure ticket and passport; work schedule, which must include start and ending hours, and location; and lodging and contact information.

When asked if there will be changes to protocols for essential workers, Muña said that changes are being discussed, but these changes are not intended to stop essential workers from doing their work.

"We are looking to make changes for the protocols, but it is not to stop essential workers. Essential workers still need to do their essential work, and that's why we're asking everyone that are granted this privilege, or you can call it authority, to remind themselves that they have to protect the community as well," said Muña.

As of last Friday, Muña said that there are 23 individuals aged 18 and younger who are active COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, with the youngest of this age group being around 4 months old.

Of the 48 active cases at the time of Friday morning, Muña said that 27 showed symptoms: most with mild symptoms, two showed moderate symptoms, and four as of last Friday were receiving REGEN-COV infusions. Muña also said that there are no active hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's website, REGEN-COV is monoclonal antibody therapy used for the prevention of COVID-19. REGEN-COV is authorized for use for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms in adults and patients 12 years and older weighing at least 40 kilograms with positive COVID-19 test results who are at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19.

'Bipartisan bill will boost Marianas infrastructure'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives passed Friday (Saturday, Saipan time) the bipartisan infrastructure bill, drafted and approved in the Senate earlier this year, sending the bill to President Joe Biden for signature. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will contribute substantially to the ongoing modernization and rebuilding of the Northern Marianas.

The reauthorization of surface transportation programs and other "hard" infrastructure provides about $1.2 trillion over the next five years, including $550 billion in new spending. It makes investments in roads, public transit, rural broadband, airports, water and wastewater systems, and other traditional capital improvement projects.

The Northern Marianas will see nearly $24 million through the Territorial Highway Program over the five-year period. Another $7 million is expected to go to the CNMI public transit system based on formula funding alone. And the Commonwealth will be eligible to compete for $7.5 billion for road projects, particularly those that focus on climate change mitigation and resilience and user safety, including cyclists and pedestrians.

"Also important, will be funding to make broadband more available and more affordable in the Marianas," Sablan said. Median speeds in the Commonwealth are well below the Federal Communications Commission's benchmark for minimally acceptable broadband, according to the White House. "The Marianas will receive at least $25 million to help improve broadband services."

Sablan

In addition, Northern Marianas families with incomes up 200% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for a new $30 per month broadband subsidy and a $100 device subsidy to help connect to the internet.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aims to modernize U.S. airports. The Commonwealth Ports Authority can expect approximately $30 million to increase safety and make these gateways to the Marianas more comfortable and efficient.

The Commonwealth can also look for $24 million in new money for water infrastructure. Sablan has made federal funding for water and wastewater infrastructure a particular focus of his work in Congress. Annual funding for Marianas water systems was less than $1 million, when Sablan was first elected in 2009. He was quickly able to change funding formulas and has raised $88.59 million since then, bringing 24-hour water to Saipan.

Sablan received a call shortly after Saturday night's vote from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), thanking him for his leadership and support. As the senior representative from the U.S. insular areas, Sablan often takes responsibility for bringing insular concerns to Pelosi and other House leaders, when major legislation is being drafted. ***(PR)***

$6K bail set for man who allegedly hit cop

The CNMI Superior Court has imposed a $6,000 cash bail on a man who was arrested last Oct. 31, 2021, for allegedly hitting a Department of Public Safety police officer with a piece of wood.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan signed an arrest warrant for Newton Tmarsel last Nov. 2 on charges of disturbing the peace, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery for an incident back in October where he allegedly assaulted a DPS officer who was off-duty with a 2-by-2 piece of wood.

At around 5:39pm on the same day the warrant was signed, officers arrested 33-year-old Tmarsel in Garapan.

According to court documents, police received a 911 call last Oct. 24 at around 12:30am, reporting a disturbance at a bar in Garapan.

Police units responded to the scene where officers met with the caller who stated that a male individual hit an off-duty female police officer before fleeing the scene.

According to witnesses, the man hit the woman's back with a piece of 2-by-2 lumber before throwing it toward another female and hitting her foot.

Responding officers brought the man, later identified as Tmarsel, to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s alternate care site at Kanoa Resort before he was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked, detained, and then released.

After a follow up investigation last Sunday, an arrest warrant was signed on Nov. 2 and Tmarsel was arrested the same day. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

ARMATECH

CCTV Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!

SAVE MONEY with the Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. ENROLL TODAY!

- **Cheapest Price:** $5.00 (Individual Plan), $6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or $7.00 (Family Plan) per bi-weekly allotment. Cheapest dental plan in the CNMI.
- Members receive at LEAST **20%-50% discounts** on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the-art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Most experienced dentists in the CNMI. Really nice people and the coffee pot is always on! Great aircon and free WiFi.

Award-Winning Dentists kind and gentle
DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE

Paradise Dental Spa
Hawaii Dental Service, Take Care, Calvo's, Cigna, Staywell, and LHI Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome! Best Aircon on the island, and the coffee pot is always on!
Call 234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across from Chong's Refrigeration
Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com instagram.com/paradisedentalspa facebook.com/paradisedentalspa

Incredible new possibilities
Never look back with the iPhone and network built to take you further

iPhone 13 Pro Max $369 | iPhone 13 Pro $249 | iPhone 13 FREE | iPhone 13 mini FREE
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Advertised pricing is on the 128GB capacity models with 2-year contract on the Unlimited Data plan. Subject to credit check. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details.
EARN PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Atkins Kroll
Long term reliability…..since 1914
(An Inchcape Company)

Are you looking for a long-established company that can offer

Competitive Wage
Medical/Dental Insurance Plan
401(K) Retirement Plan
Life Insurance
Long Term Disability Insurance
Paid Vacation
Paid Holidays
Paid Sick Leave
Employee Discount
Service Award Program
Performance Bonus Program
Advancement Opportunities
Annual Salary Review
Well Equipped Work Facility

If so, and you are interested in joining our team of professionals, Atkins Kroll has an opening for the following positions.

Automotive Technician II

Looking for an experienced Automotive Technician who is responsible for performing vehicle repair, service, diagnosis and/or maintenance work.

Qualification/Requirement: Must have 3-5 years of automotive diagnosis, repairs, and problem-solving experience. OEM Certification and ASE certification preferred. Working knowledge of machine and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Ongoing participation in educational and formal training. Continual compliance with federal and state regulations. Must be able to operate a manual transmission vehicle and possess a valid Saipan driver's license.

If you meet these qualifications apply in person at
Atkins Kroll, Inc.
#1 Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Oleai, Saipan 96950
email your resume to **hr@akguam.net**

No phone calls please!

AK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER • www.akguam.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUCKET TRUCKS AND TRUCK CRANE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of six bucket trucks and one 30ton truck crane for the CUC Power Distribution in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-003, Supply and Delivery of Bucket Trucks and Truck Crane)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 6, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 12, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org, and Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer at email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Torres congratulates Tina for being chosen as Dems' gubernatorial bet

» Governor said he looks forward to a clean campaign in 2022 general elections

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres congratulated Rep. Tina E. Sablan last Friday after she was chosen by the NMI Democratic Party as their candidate for governor in the November 2022 general elections.

"I want to wish [her well and] not just her but to everyone who puts their name into this 2022 election," said Torres when asked during his regular radio press briefing about the Democratic Party's endorsement of Sablan as their standard bearer.

The governor said they are looking forward to a clean campaign from all those that will be running, not just in the gubernatorial race but across all positions, whether it's for delegate, senator, mayor, representatives and even down to municipal councilors.

"We wish to have a good campaign moving forward," he said.

The 18-member Central Executive Committee of the NMI Democratic Party unanimously approved the recommendation of their Gubernatorial Search Committee to select Sablan as their candidate in 2022. The party reportedly received five letters of intent to run for governor under the party.

The Central Executive Committee also voted unanimously for Gregorio Kilili Sablan, who is the only one who filed a letter of intent to run for the delegate post under the Democratic Party.

Torres and Sen. Vinnie Vinson Flores Sablan are the standard- bearer of the NMI Republican Party as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

Torres' previous running-mate, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, has also announced that he will be running for governor with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as his running-mate under an independent ticket.

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ⊠ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 | Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 | Website: www.NMIjudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DRUG COURT PROJECT ASSISTANT
Announcement # JVA22-007
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Drug Court Manager or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist the Drug Court Manager in the daily operations of the Drug Court Division;
- Assist in the preparation of administrative reports to the Judicial Council, Supreme Court, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, the Presiding Judge and the Chief Justice;
- Updates and advises Grants Manager on expenditure of federal funds for assigned grant projects;
- Processes purchase requisitions and purchase orders and updates vendor files;
- Enters, verifies for accuracy, updates and retrieves computer data; prepares spreadsheets;
- Posts journal entries and budget amendments;
- Assists in maintaining financial records for assigned grant projects;
- Conducts routine self audits by examining, verifying, and reviewing financial records and makes corrections as necessary;
- Ensures program compliance with all applicable Judiciary policies and procedures, state and federal laws and regulations, and standards of quality and safety; provides guidance on policies, procedures, laws and regulations for staff as necessary;
- Establish procedures for the collection of appropriate data and set up records to assure compliance of all regulations to include, but not be limited to, periodic reports;
- Establishes and ensures the maintenance of accurate and complete Drug Court participant records and transmits data to appropriate Drug Court team members;
- Monitors program effectiveness and efficiency, and makes recommendations for improvements as necessary to enhance services, achieve goals and ensure compliance;
- Reads, and applies complex policies and laws governing federal programs;
- Interact regularly with Drug Court stakeholders and assists with grants project implementation;
- Develop positive relationships and maintain high levels of communication with stakeholders and the Drug CourtManager;
- Assist with the collection of all required documentation on a timely basis, including attendance, staff training, federal data, invoices, and surveys.
- Maintain and track monthly budget in coordination with the Grants Manager, Finance Director, and Drug Court Manager;
- Assist the Drug Court Manager in monitoring program requirements;
- Be fully familiar with the BJA grant including goals and objectives, and all program requirements;
- Participate in all meetings, workshops, and activities organized by the Drug Court Manager;
- Coordinate evaluation process including any surveys of participants and staff;
- Compiles data for and prepares records and reports as required by the division and/or other agencies;
- Performs general administrative work as required, including but not limited to entering and retrieving computer data, preparing reports and correspondence, copying and filing documents, sending and receiving faxes and e-mails, answering the telephone, ordering supplies;
- Attends meetings, training, workshops and conferences as appropriate to enhance job knowledge and skills;
- Process travel requests for professional development paid through federal funds;
- Assist with training travel authorizations for Drug Court staff and Drug Court Team.
- Maintains records of equipment paid for by federal funds under the supervision of Grants Management;
- Assist the Project Director with quarterly reports via JustGrants and the BJA PMT.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Drug Court Project Assistant must have a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent, plus two (2) years of experience in grants management, client services, data collection or similar field. Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.) Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.[1]

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $30,000-$35,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818 | Cell. (670) 783-8592 | Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

[1] *The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.*
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

CALVO'S Select Care HEALTH PLANS

Federal Employees and Annuitants ENROLL TODAY!

Open Season November 8 - December 13, 2021

Access to a comprehensive Guam/CNMI Medical Network

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

- Kagman Community Health Center
- MMC & Pacific Labs
- Medical Associates of the Pacific
- Pacific Fertility Institute
- Pacific Medical Center
- Pacific Sleep Center
- Rota Health Center
- Sagan Hinemlo' Family Clinic
- Saipan Health Clinic
- Saipan Sleep Center

GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
ATURIDÅT ESPETÅT MIMURIÅT GUÅHÅN

- Tinian Health Center
- Eucon Medical Health Services
- Healthcare Specialties
- Marianas Health Services
- Marianas Visiting Nurses
- PT Rehab
- Hardt Eye Clinic
- Marianas Eye Institute
- Janet McCullough, Ph.D.
- Medical Associates of the Pacific

GUAM REGIONAL MEDICAL CITY

- Pacific Clinical & Consulting
- Brabu Pharmacy
- CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy
- PHI Pharmacy
- Marianas Dental Center
- New Wave Dental Clinic
- Paradise Dental Clinic
- Saipan SDA Dental
- Diagnostic Laboratory Services
- Pacific Laboratories

UnitedHealthcare®

Access to a Comprehensive Medical Network across the continental U.S.A.

1.1 Million
UnitedHealth Premium Care Physicians

6,100+
Hospitals

TELADOC™
UnitedHealthcare provides FEHB Members 24/7 on-demand access to online medical services

NurseLine provided by OPTUM **24/7 Nurse Triage and Advice Service** 866-874-3936

Asia Providers

Philippines: Centers of Excellence
- Cardinal Santos Medical Center
- Makati Medical Center
- Manila Doctor's Hospital
- National Kidney and Transplant Institute
- St. Luke's Medical Center: Global City
- St. Luke's Medical Center: Quezon City
- The Medical City: Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga
- The Medical City: Molo, Iloilo City
- The Medical City: Pasig City

Hong Kong
Hong Kong Adventist Hospital - Stubbs Road
Gleneagles Hospital

Taiwan: Centers of Excellence
- China Medical University Hospital
- Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital
- Taiwan Adventist Hospital

Japan
Kameda Medical Center, Chiba
Kameda Kyobashi Clinic, Tokyo

Korea
Samsung Medical Center

Healthcare that's always there for you **Please visit or call our office for more information**

Phone: 670-234-5690 **Web:** www.calvos.net **Email:** service@calvos.com Oleai Center Bldg., Ste 103, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950

TOKIO MARINE PACIFIC Rated A+ by AM Best · AAAHC · NCQA

This is a brief description of the features of Calvo's SelectCare. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's Federal brochure RI 73-874.
All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure. Airfare benefit, Dental Plan and Free Gym Membership are non-FEHB benefits.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 221

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

COVID vaccine for kids is another step toward normalcy

Children have been mostly spared from the pandemic's ravages, but they're not immune. Pediatric intensive care units filled up this summer with delta variant cases, and across the country, nearly 800 children have died from COVID-19. That's a minuscule percentage of the total underage population, but every death is a tragedy for a family.

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved a smaller dose of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 to 11, essentially covering the remainder of the school-age population that was still waiting on access to the shots. We expect that millions of families and teachers are sighing with relief after almost two tumultuous years of remote learning, special campus protocols and, in some cases, social exile.

The CDC approval means that the series of two shots, at lower doses, will be rolling out in the next few days. The question now is whether enough parents will get their kids vaccinated and move their communities closer to herd immunity.

We urge them to do so. While we understand parents' instinct to be extra cautious when making decisions about their children's health care, the science overwhelmingly shows that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective at protecting kids. And as advertising around town from Children's Medical Center reminds us, the vaccine technology is older than the kids who will receive it.

The clinical trial showed that the Pfizer vaccine was 91% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 among more than 2,000 children ages 5-11. Vaccine experts say the benefits of getting the shots outweigh the risks for kids in this age group.

Moreover, millions of children ages 12-17 have been safely vaccinated against COVID-19 since May.

Families also have to contend with the risk that a child with COVID-19 might spread the illness to a vulnerable relative, even if the child is asymptomatic or ailing from a mild version of the disease.

Unfortunately, there is still a lot of vaccine skepticism among families. A recent Gallup poll showed that only 55% of parents in the U.S. with kids under age 12 say they would get their children vaccinated if the shots became available.

Pediatricians will do a lot of the heavy lifting in informing and convincing parents, but our public health authorities should once again turn to other trusted community voices to amplify the importance of vaccinating children.

As in previous campaigns, civic leaders will have to think creatively. For example, Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told us that a $50 incentive to families whose children got the shots proved successful in driving parents to school vaccine clinics.

The more kids who get vaccinated, the closer we are to normalcy and the closer we are to leaving those bitter battles about mask mandates behind. What a comfort that would be.

©2021 The Dallas Morning News

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/UAS
MIKE SMITH
LASVEGASSUN2021
AFTER THEIR LOSS IN VIRGINIA, DEMOCRATS ARE MEETING FOR A POLITICAL STRATEGY SESSION.
OPEN THE WINDOWS.
NO, A SQUARE TABLE.
NO, LEAVE THEM CLOSED.
SHOULD WE ORDER PIZZA?
WE SHOULD HAVE A ROUND TABLE.
NO, I WANT SANDWICHES.
I WANT SUSHI.

American approach to crime based on a myth

By SUSAN SHERMAN and SABA ROUHANI
THE BALTIMORE SUN

For decades our approach to crime has been based on a fallacy. The notion is quite simple: Arresting and prosecuting people for minor, so-called "quality-of-life" offenses prevents major—and often violent—crimes, such as shootings and homicides.

Now, many cities are backtracking on this style of enforcement in an effort to treat drug use and sex work as public health issues and reduce the impacts of policing and incarceration especially in Black communities. Our recent study on Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby's low-level policies signals the merits of this new strategy.

Aggressive order-maintenance and zero-tolerance have been core components of policing in many major cities since the 1980s. The central theme is that if we as a society "allow" people to get away with minor offenses, they will go on to commit more serious offenses. Small crimes become big crimes. Therefore, arrests for minor offenses such as open beer cans and loitering should be aggressively enforced to keep the broader community safe.

In Baltimore City, this approach has engendered anger and trauma for decades, finally manifesting in a breakdown in police relations within Black communities after the killing of Freddie Gray, from which the city has never fully recovered. A subsequent Department of Justice report was scathing in its denunciation of the Baltimore Police Department's practices and resulted in a federal consent decree. The disproportionate focus on arresting for minor crimes has served as a vehicle for many of the unconstitutional abuses of police power, such as racially biased stop and search, that the report condemned.

In the last few years, our city has undergone a major shift in how we approach policing and prosecution. In March 2020, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby announced her decision to stop prosecuting minor offenses, including drug possession and sex work. Police stopped making arrests. By the time Ms. Mosby made the policy permanent in March 2021, she had dismissed pending cases and quashed warrants associated with these offenses.

This prosecutorial change gave us the opportunity to ask a unique question as researchers: Was there evidence that individuals benefiting from the policy (i.e., whose drug and prostitution charges were dropped) went on to commit more serious offenses?

The theory of zero-tolerance policing says that if these people not picked up for their low-level offenses, there would be public safety consequences. But our preliminary research showed that the answer was almost always that they did not. Using data on arrests from the Maryland Courts Judicial Information System, we found that only 0.8% of 741 individuals whose charges were dismissed were rearrested for more serious offenses in the 14 months after the policy went into effect.

These findings are bolstered by studies elsewhere. In Boston, local prosecutor Rachael Rollins stopped prosecuting misdemeanors. Researchers found that not prosecuting these offenses led to reductions in future felony offenses by individuals arrested for misdemeanors.

The study hypothesized that by stopping people from entering the criminal legal system on minor offenses, it reduced the chance that they would become involved in the system and commit a more serious offense. This is also consistent with research from the field of criminology illustrating that exposure to the criminal legal system can increase, not decrease, the risk factors for committing subsequent crime.

Yet while some may take solace in the fact that the low-level offenses do not cause more crime, others believe they are a nuisance that should be handled by the justice system. However, the reality is that when someone is arrested for drug use or sex work, they are often released pending trial and are back on the streets doing the same thing within 24 hours.

This approach neither reduces signs of public disorder nor addresses the root causes of the behaviors causing concern. Research has consistently shown that arrest and detention are not associated with reduced likelihood of using drugs or selling sex thereafter and is instead associated with increased risks of related harms, including fatal overdose. The criminal legal system is simply not equipped to handle the challenges of drug use and sex work.

Instead, we should be expanding health and social services to meet the underlying needs of those no longer being routed into the criminal legal system. Ms. Mosby's office has built partnerships with mental health, drug treatment and sex work organizations, but the city should be funding more outreach services to support locals whose health crisis needs are no longer being met with arrest and prosecution.

Addressing trauma and broader health needs in the community, improving access to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorder, scaling up harm-reduction services such as syringe service programs, and implementing overdose prevention sites should all be central to the city's evolving approach. Research is now needed on cost savings from declining to arrest, prosecute and detain people for these behaviors; such savings should be

See MYTH on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Colin Powell and some recollections

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs *at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

Fellow islanders who are of middle age and older who wore the colors of this nation while serving in the American armed forces and/or national security communities may remember and hold memories of past leaders who represented the U.S. military.

Colin Powell who recently passed away from COVID 19 complications is one of those individuals who left lasting impressions on the author and millions of other citizens across the American imperial landscape.

For those who remember, 4-star U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell was a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and someone who was tremendously popular, inspirational, and controversial during his time in power.

General Powell, who also served as Secretary of State, was a citizen who had a semblance of civility and general goodwill. Mr. Powell may have become the first Black citizen to become President of the United States if he ran back in the 1990s or early 2000s. His decision not to run was tied in part to his wife's concern that he would be physically harmed or worse if he ran for office.

An example of simplicity and promise

Simplicity and promise characterized Colin Powell. While he will be remembered as a powerful senior general who was very skillful at working with people in unwieldy bureaucratic environments characteristic of Washington, D.C., and the military, he was by many interpretations, a simple man.

Powell was an individual who listened to Jamaican island music while he worked inside the most powerful spaces at the Pentagon. When it came to building trust, Powell consistently embraced the importance of in-person onsite interactions, wishing his fellow senior generals to speak without fancy PowerPoint presentation slides as crutches, instead advocating for face-to-face real-time conversational exchanges.

Powell style communications are needed more than ever between our Chamorro civilization and the Pentagon

Direct negotiations, face-to-face negotiations, pre-decisional negotiations with real equal decision-making authority are precisely what the Pentagon needs to move toward when it comes to how it engages our ancient Chamorro people and civilization.

Our island chain has proven itself repeatedly that it provides invaluable land space for the Pentagon.

How this ties back to Colin Powell is that he proved repeatedly how goodwill and trust can be built amongst critical stakeholders, across civilian and military communities and beyond.

Perhaps our people may not fully realize just how critical and powerful the collective Chamorri and Chamolinian voices really are in terms of how the Pentagon interprets our people when we speak up more regularly and forcefully, and with real community authority that we inherently own and choose to exercise.

Our collective Chamorro roots and how they connect to Colin Powell's roots

Powell, like many of our Chamorro families, came from a relatively humble social economic background. Powell, as with many of our family members and friends, found relaxation and enjoyment through working on cars as opposed to pursuing highbrow off-duty pursuits.

Powell's ability to be a role model at many levels was founded on the idea that his influence was authentic—and people gravitated to his authenticity and command presence.

What a guy like Powell can teach the Navy and Marine Corps in the Marianas

Powell could teach the military, especially the Navy and Marine Corps, a little about humility and leadership in the Marianas. Powell's hands-on style and plain talk are sorely needed because the Pentagon in Guam is too scripted, concealing, and manufactured when it comes to building authentic trust and goodwill with our people.

Powell's attitude about people reflects the relative plainness and populist stripe that is part and parcel of the U.S. Army, when compared to the ever so self-important Navy and Marine Corps.

The Army, unlike the Navy and Marine Corps, has proven its commitment to village communities through its educational programs at UOG and its enduring Army Guard presence in Barrigada.

The Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force remain out of mind and out of sight at UOG and elsewhere.

Powell fundamentally believed that if people stop asking questions of someone in authority and no longer wish to approach the authority figure with problems and concerns, that authentic leadership and trust no longer exist. He was right.

The Navy and Marine Corps and Air Force haven't quite arrived in Guam and the NMI when it comes to building greater trust and bridges of goodwill over time when compared to the Army.

Powell may have agreed that Joint Region Marianas and all tenant commands in Guam and the Mariana Islands were too heavy on the pomp, circumstance, ego, fancy titular references, self-importance, and overly jumbled organizational matrices while coming up short on seeking the prior, written, and formal consent, goodwill, and trust of our entire Chamorro civilization.

A Chamorro version of Powell—expect it in the future

Thousands of Chamorros have served in the military and national security communities across time and space. Thousands of our people have elected to join the U.S. Army and will continue to do so in the future. Thousands of our people have excelled in the Army because opportunities were presented, and community support and backing were and remain strong.

One day, we will see a Chamorro village son or daughter of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands reach the most senior general officer rank of 4-star general, following in the footsteps of Colin Powell and, when this eventually happens, it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone because our collective commitment, purpose, and motivation when it comes to uniformed service has and continues to be authentic and persistent over time, just like General Powell's commitment to the overall national security of the American empire through his service in the U.S. Army.

I'm a mother and a pediatrician. My kids are getting COVID vaccines right away

By GABRIELA M. MARADIAGA PANAYOTTI
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Dear fellow parents: Please get your kids vaccinated. I'm doing so this week.

As a pediatrician at Duke Health, I've seen many children and families suffer from COVID-19 over the last 20 months. The parents of my patients tell me about the fevers, body aches, headaches, and loss of smell that have lasted for months. With approval this week of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11, we can ease a great deal of that heartache.

COVID-19 has not only harmed adults. In North Carolina, about 250,000 of the state's COVID-19 cases—roughly 1 in every 6—has been a child. And with the emergence of the more contagious delta variant over the last several months, more and more children have become infected.

> A recent report showed that 1 out of every 3 children admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 ends up in the intensive care unit and may need life support. Sadly, over 700 children have now died of COVID-19 in the United States, more than usually die of influenza in an average year.

COVID-19 is unpredictable. Some children have it and never know; symptoms can be nonexistent, mild, serious or even deadly. But even a mild or asymptomatic infection can force a child into quarantine, a disruption to the predictable, consistent routine that helps children thrive.

With moderate illness, they may need to be hospitalized, which can be very traumatic. Almost 10% of children who had COVID-19 may experience prolonged symptoms, such as trouble concentrating, fatigue, headache, muscle and joint pain, and insomnia.

A recent report showed that 1 out of every 3 children admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 ends up in the intensive care unit and may need life support. Sadly, over 700 children have now died of COVID-19 in the United States, more than usually die of influenza in an average year.

And COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on children of color. Black and Hispanic children represent more than half of the child hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19. Meanwhile, recent research found that 140,000 American children have lost a parent to COVID-19, many of them racial and ethnic minorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound effects on the mental health of children as well. I've seen it in my own patients, like the bubbly little girl who I've been taking care of for four years. This child has traditionally been so upbeat that I had a sticky note to remind myself: "She's always happy!" But when I last saw her a few months ago, she was gripped by anxiety and thoughts of suicide; the pandemic had turned her world upside down. She never had COVID-19 herself, but the pandemic had cut her off from her own life support: school, friends, activities.

She was not the only one. In my 15 years as a pediatrician, I have never seen so many young girls cutting their wrists as a suicidal gesture, as I have this year.

But there is hope now. COVID-19 finally joins the list of other vaccine-preventable illnesses like measles, tetanus and polio. There don't have to be another 700 childhood deaths next year. With the protection of the vaccine on board, our children can now be part of the fight, part of the victory.

Over the last year my kids have watched me on countless virtual town halls sharing stories about the hardships my patients and their families face. They have heard their father, a pulmonologist and intensive care doctor, come home day after day talking about the different ways he and his team try to save the lives of people suffering from COVID-19.

My children are 7 and 9 years old, and I see the vaccine as a chance to give them agency—to empower them in this fight against COVID-19. And the good news is that we have a safe and effective way to do it. I am getting them vaccinated Thursday, as soon as the vaccine is available. Please join me.

Gabriela M. Maradiaga Panayotti is a pediatrician at Duke Health. This piece was written for The Charlotte Observer.

MYTH

From Page 8

redirected to the public health system.

Our city is leaving behind an era of aggressive zero-tolerance policing and tough-on-crime prosecutions. What comes next must be an unequivocal commitment to evidence-based public health measures and the requisite financing.

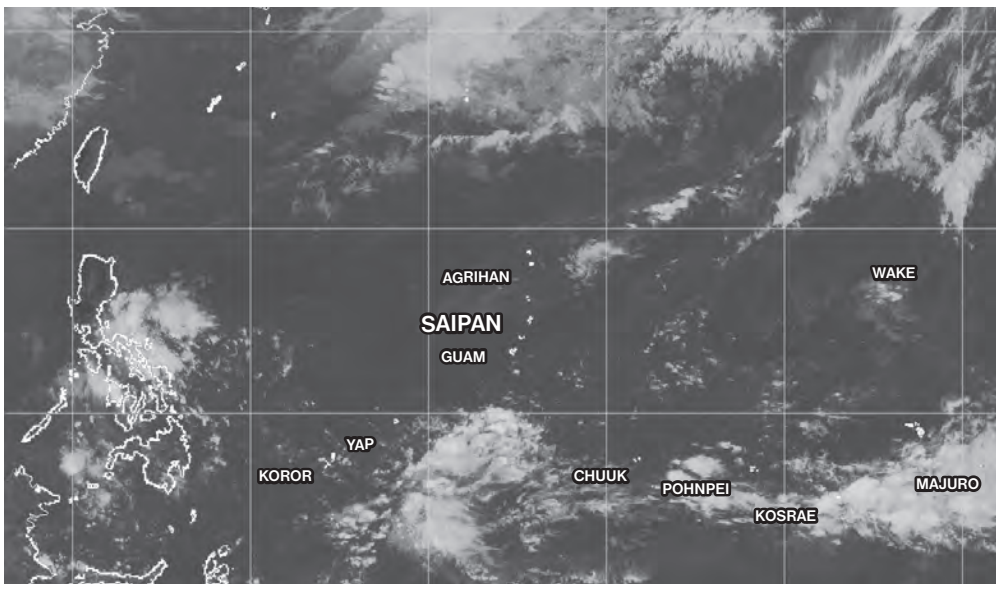
Susan Sherman (ssherman@jhu.edu) is a professor in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society within at Johns Hopkins University, where Saba Rouhani (srouhan1@jhu.edu) is a member of the research faculty.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:12 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet, composed mainly of an east-northeast trade-wind swell, along with east wind waves of around 2 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:34 AM	9:01 PM	-
Tuesday	10:38 AM	10:04 PM	-
Wednesday	11:37 AM	11:07 PM	-
Thursday	12:30 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:07 AM	1:17 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	64° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	57° / 36°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 74°
London	Showers	54° / 39°
Los Angeles	Sunny	72° / 56°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Miami	Sunny	82° / 74°
New York	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Osaka	Rain	70° / 54°
Paris	Sunny	50° / 39°
Busan	Sunny	72° / 46°
Rome	Showers	59° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 63°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	63° / 37°
Tokyo	Showers	68° / 55°
Washington, DC	Rain	53° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:49 AM	Low Tide	-0.67
11:01 AM	High Tide	1.89
4:28 PM	Low Tide	1.20
9:05 PM	High Tide	1.83

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Coastal construction training tomorrow

The CNMI Infrastructure & Recovery Program, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is conducting the Coastal Construction Training "Building Resilience" tomorrow, Nov. 9, 2021, from 7:30am to 8am, at the Aqua Resort Club on Saipan.

This is the first in a series of trainings to increase resilience and capacity in the CNMI. Attend virtually via Zoom at: https://fema.zoomgov.comi/j/1602063830; meeting ID: 160 206 3830; passcode: 4404.

It will be hosted by the IRP, with support from FEMA Building Science, Mitigation Assessment Team and FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination for DR4404.

The meeting/training site and its electronic version of training materials are required to be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Send an e-mail to Deveney Dela Cruz in the CNMI Infrastructure & Recovery Program or call 670-664-4775 or email at irp@irp.gov.mp.

Donate to Karidat via AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon? Support Karidat Social Services this holiday season when you shop Black Friday, Christmas, and CyberMonday.

Karidat reminds the community to join Amazon's AmazonSmile Charity Program on behalf of Karidat. AmazonSmile Charity is a meaningful way for people of the CNMI near and far to donate to Karidat every time they shop on Amazon. Just register at www.smile.amazon.com and type in Karidat as your charity, you will see Karidat, Saipan MP pop up, press select and you are all set. Use your regular Amazon username and password each time you log into www.smile.amazon.com . It's that easy! There is no additional cost to your Amazon purchases. By using www.smile.amazon.com to make your favorite purchases, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to Karidat. ***(PR)***

5.3-magnitude quake in Maug region

At 1:46am on Nov. 5, 2021, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred of 19.027°N 145.060°E in the Maug Island region, Northern Mariana Islands. No tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Emergency water service interruption

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there is currently an emergency water service interruption for customers in the areas of the entire Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan homestead, Naftan and Obyan.

The emergency water outage started yesterday, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, at 5:30pm and will last until today, Nov. 8, 2021, at 6am.

This is due to the low tank level in the Kagman water tank that supplies water service to the affected areas. Customers in the high elevations will experience low pressure to no water. Operators identified four water wells that lost power supply yesterday morning and these wells are currently back online. However, the tank level is not able to keep up with the demand. Operators will continue to perform leak detection in the Kagman area to identify any major leaks affecting the tank level. More updates for this emergency water outage will follow as soon as it is available.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Frankie K. Manalo (Name of Father) Y.K.K J.J.K (Name of Children) Plaintiffs, Vs. Marakita Kanistus (Name of Mother) Defendant

FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0395

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 503704 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

11/08/2021
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after November 23, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Beach Road Repair and Improvement from Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection to Micro Beach Road/AMP Route 33 Phase III and Phase IV Project.

The proposed road improvement and drainage project is located from Atkins Kroll Toyota or Monsignor Guerrero Road intersection to Micro Beach Road/American Memorial Park (AMP) located on the island of Saipan from San Jose Village to Garapan Village. The project is essentially a resurfacing project. The project involves removing existing asphalt pavement, evaluate the condition of existing base coarse. If the base coarse is structurally sound, it will be shaved (graded), compacted and asphalt paved. The timeline for the project's construction phase is 8 months. To further streamline traffic flow and lessen congestion there is an ongoing project for installation of traffic light on Quartermaster intersection. This project benefits the entire Saipan community, especially for residents and businesses that reside and operate near the road. The safe roads will minimize accidents; allows for smoother and reliable commutes between north and south of the island and other critical facilities such as the island's main hospital.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is an essential component that support low-income to low-moderate income families who will live in reconstructed/rehabilitate/newly constructed homes. The low-income to low-moderate income families use this stretch of road. Consequently, NMHC finds an immediate urgency to fund DPW's unmet public infrastructure needs; specifically, this road improvement project and for the ensuing reasons.

Location:
Beach Road from Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection to Micro Beach Road/AMP, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$10,000,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds is allocated to this project combined with Federal Highway funds in the amount of $26,603,695.00 (Federal Highway funds is allocated to road improvements from the Pakpak Beach to As-Perdido Intersection/As-Perdido Intersection to AK Toyota). Total Project Cost: $36,603,695.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in **Garapan**, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **November 23, 2021, 4:00 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Skiff with 6 persons on board missing off FSM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard, Federated States of Micronesia first responders, and good Samaritans are searching for an overdue 24-foot skiff with six people aboard off Lukunor Atoll in Chuuk State, Saturday.

An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew has been deployed to the search area while the Coast Guard Cutters *Frederick Hatch* and *Sequoia* are en route to assist.

At 9:17am last Thursday, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia-Sector Guam watchstanders received a report from the Mayor's office on Oniop Atoll in Chuuk stating the 24-foot skiff was overdue.

The skiff had departed Moch Island, Satawan Atoll, en route to Oniop Atoll at 4pm, Wednesday, and at 6:52pm a phone call was received on Oniop Atoll from one of the skiff's passengers stating they had run out of fuel.

FSM authorities deployed the crew of the FSS *Micronesia* in response while good Samaritans also joined in the search.

Coast Guard Forces Micronesia-Sector Guam watchstanders began coordinating with FSM authorities to formulate search plans while deploying Coast Guard assets to assist.

Involved or en route to the search so far are the crew of the FSS *Micronesia*; an Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew; the crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch*; the crew of the Coast Guard cutter Sequoia; Coast Guard Forces Micronesia-Sector Guam watchstanders; Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center watchstanders; a Caroline Islands Air aircrew; and local good Samaritans. ***(PR)***

'No Tricks, Just Treats' Halloween event a success

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan's Halloween event last Oct. 31, called "No Tricks, Just Treats," at the NMI Museum of History & Culture grounds was so enthusiastically received that, although the event was scheduled to begin at 5pm, the community began pouring in as early as 3:30pm.

Joann T. Aquino, who is director of community service for the Rotary Club of Saipan, described the event as a great success for the club, the NMI Museum, and the event's partners.

In the email message, Aquino said Wednesday last week that the Saipan Mayor's Office was hosting its own Halloween event that same time across the street at the Sugar King Park, featuring a mini-haunted house hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, and many of the participants spilled over to the Rotary's "No Tricks, Just Treats" event as soon as they were done checking out the Sugar King Park.

In total, Aquino said the Rotary Club passed out last Halloween over 2,000 goodie bags packed with "an assortment of candies and treats, cases of Poka drinks, cooler bags, soccer balls and fruits" during a jam-packed night that featured festivities inside and outside the NMI Museum.

Inside the museum was a movie night, while outside featured a pumpkin pie eating contest and a costume contest; live music, dance, and magic performances; an inflated bounce house; and many other outdoor inflatables on display that ranged from 5 to 12 feet in size.

Aquino said the pumpkin pie eating contest was sponsored by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero, and featured seven entrants, with all seven getting prizes.

First place received a $100 Joeten gift card courtesy of Bridge Capital LLC and three months free gym membership at Latte Built Fitness courtesy of Rotary Club member Dr. Lily Muldoon. The other six received gift certificates to Gentle Brook Cafe, Monster Pizza Pub, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and National Office Supply, said Aquino.

The costume contest was judged according to six different age groups from 0 to 3-years old all the way to 16 and older. Aquino said the winning participants received Halloween gift buckets loaded with various treats and gift certificates to McDonald's, National Office Supply, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, and RJ Pizza.

From left, NMI Museum of History and Culture executive director Danny Aquino, museum docent Archie Ajoste, Rotary Club of Saipan member Diego Sablan, and Rotary Club sergeant-at-arms Brian Clayton share a photo with a large outdoor inflatable while they were setting up for the Rotary Club's Halloween event "No Tricks, Just Treats" at NMI Museum grounds. CONTRIBTUED PHOTO

From left, Rotary Club of Saipan past president Curtis Dancoe; club director of community service Joann T. Aquino; Rotary Club member Frankie Eliptico; and current club president Ivan Ilmov share a photo during the Rotary Club's Halloween event "No Tricks, Just Treats" at NMI Museum Grounds. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aquino thanked several participating agencies, organizations, and families for passing out treats, including the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality; the Tan Siu Lin Foundation; the Substance Abuse, Addiction, and Rehabilitation Program; the CNMI Women's Affairs Office; the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence; Paradise Dental Saipan; Miss Earth Northern Marianas; Dice Pacific Professional Solutions LLC, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation; Youth Empowerment Solutions; and Mr. and Mrs. Mario Aguon.

Aquino thanked NMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino and NMI Museum staff for "all their hard work and efforts in making this event a success."

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
is inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

(1) IT Manager
(1) Chief Accountant
(1) Building Maintenance Worker

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

HR Office
Herman's Modern Bakery Inc.
P.O. Box 500002 Saipan, MP 96950
By Facsimile: (670) 288-1726;
or by e-mail: hr@hermansbakery.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) DIVISION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net I Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com
Tels: (670) 233-9447, 233-9448, 233-9449, 233-9450 I Fax: (670) 233-9452

PUBLIC NOTICE

"NMHC will suspend application intake for its CDBG-DR New Construction/Homebuyer Programs"

Due to a huge volume of Pre-Qualification applications and URLA Loan Application packets received to date and funding committed to approved loan applicants as well as the urgency to speed up processing of loan applications for applicants determined eligible for financial assistance, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is notifying the general public that it will **SUSPEND** accepting new applications for its CDBG-DR New Construction/Homebuyer programs effective November 12, 2021.

The two (2) NMHC CDBG-DR Housing Programs affected by this suspension include:

1. New Construction for Homeownership Opportunity and First-Time Homebuyer Assistance Program; and
2. Homebuyer Program.

Depending on the number of loan applications approved and subject to funding availability, NMHC may resume application intake.

Thank you and for more information, please contact NMHC CDBG-DR Division at Tel. Nos. 233-9447/9448/9449/9450 or via email cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-AS-006
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/MICAH-HOME-005
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

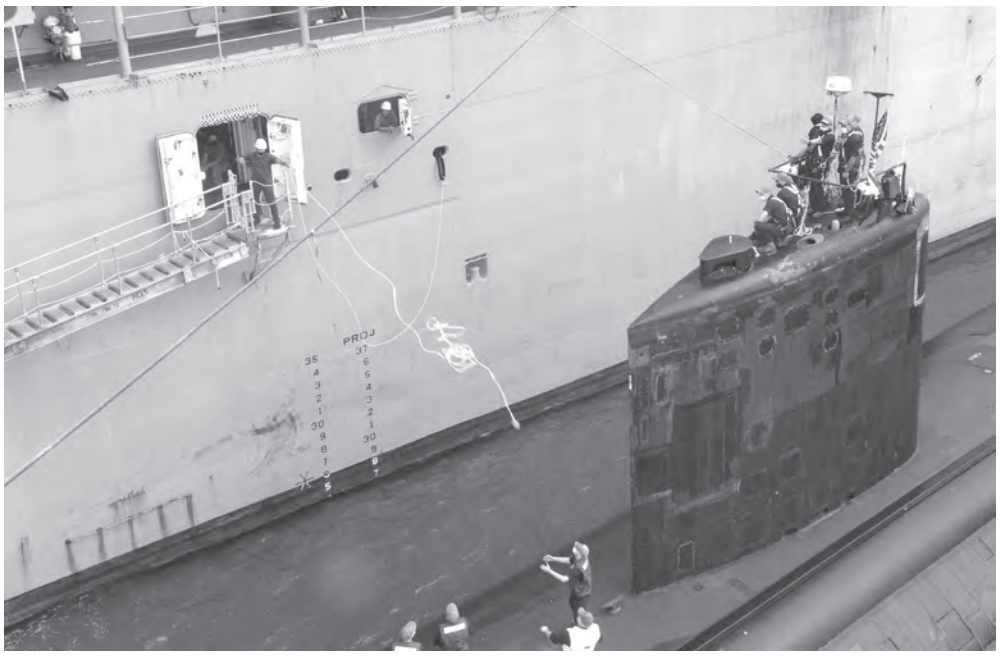
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

MANEUVERING EXERCISE
Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) approaches the island of Saipan as seen in this photo taken last Oct. 21.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 CHASE STEPHENS

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) moors alongside the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) on Saipan on Oct. 21. *Frank Cable* is on patrol conducting expeditionary maintenance and logistics in support of national security in the 7th Fleet area of operations.
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER



Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) moors alongside submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40).
U.S. NAVY/MCS3 HENRY LIU

Sailors assigned to Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) moor the boat alongside submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40)
U.S. NAVY/MCS3 HENRY LIU

Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) moors alongside submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40).
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 CHASE STEPHENS

Sailors assigned to the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) anchor an accommodation ladder to the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) as she moors alongside on Saipan last Oct. 21.
U.S. NAVY/MCS1 CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER

Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Hampton* (SSN 767) moors alongside submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40).
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 CHASE STEPHENS

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Don't focus on 'good' or 'bad' food.

Your lifestyle habits are key to a heart-healthy diet.

By TERRY COLLINS
USA TODAY

So, is it still all about "You are what you eat?"

Well, it depends if you're practicing heart-healthy eating habits, according to the American Heart Association's "2021 Dietary Guidance to Improve Cardiovascular Health." The 10-point guide released Tuesday suggests that, yes, the benefits of eating healthy reduce the risk of heart disease and even death.

But, in a bit of an about-face, the organization also stresses in a statement the "importance of looking at the total dietary pattern" to maintain a healthy heart, rather than what's considered "good" or "bad" foods and drinks.

"The emphasis is on dietary patterns, not specific foods or nutrients," said Alice Lichtenstein, director of the Cardiovascular Nutrition Laboratory at Tufts University in Boston and chair of the AHA's scientific statement writing group. "And it's not just about what people shouldn't be eating.

"The focus is really on what people should be eating, so they can customize it to their personal preferences and lifestyles," Lichtenstein added.

The guide, published in the AHA journal Circulation, comes some 15 years since the last time the AHA published a statement offering dietary guidance. While Americans eating habits have drastically changed since then, the features include the obvious of balancing eating along with proper exercise, eating grains, lowering your sodium, sugar and alcohol intake.

But the AHA also takes into consideration cultural differences and societal challenges that might make it harder to maintain heart-healthy eating habits. This would include food and nutrition as an estimated 37 million Americans had limited or unstable access to safe and nutritious foods in 2020, and targeted marketing of unhealthy foods in underserved communities, the organization said.

The AHA suggests policy changes and public health measures to address the challenges, including recommending an early introduction of healthy food and nutrition education at all school levels.

Additionally, the AHA even recognizes that there are healthier options other than cooking and eating meals at home as Americans frequently eat at restaurants, grab takeout, dine via online meal delivery kits and buy prepared foods at supermarkets.

"The goal is to make sure all of those calories count, and that you're consuming nutrient-dense foods," said Maya Vadiveloo, an assistant professor in nutrition and food sciences at the University of Rhode Island, who's also a part of the writing group.

Lichtenstein said Americans can "absolutely" adopt a heart-healthy diet due to different lifestyles as even though might take a little planning, it can become a routine habit.

"We can all benefit from a heart-healthy dietary pattern regardless of stage of life, and it is possible to design one that is consistent with personal preferences, lifestyles and cultural customs," Lichtenstein said. "It does not need to be complicated, time-consuming, expensive, or unappealing...

"What's really important is the balance of everything together that has the biggest impact on cardiovascular health."

© 2021 USA Today

HERE IS THE FULL LIST OF FEATURES:

1 Balance food and calorie intake with physical activity to maintain a healthy weight.

2 Choose a wide variety and eat plenty of fruits and vegetables to get a full range of nutrients from food rather than supplements;

3 Choose whole grains and other foods made up mostly of whole grains;

4 Include healthy sources of lean and/or high-fiber protein such as plant proteins (nuts and legumes), fish or seafood, low fat or non-fat dairy, lean cuts of meat and limit red and processed meats;

5 Use liquid non-tropical plant oils such as olive or sunflower oils;

6 Choose minimally processed foods rather than ultra-processed foods as much as possible;

7 Minimize intake of beverages and foods with added sugars;

8 Choose or prepare foods with little or no salt;

9 Limit alcohol consumption; if you don't drink, do not start;

10 Apply this guidance no matter where food is prepared or consumed.

Sitting at your desk doesn't have to be a pain in the neck

By DANA SPARKS
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Do you feel creaky, achy and stiff by the end of the workday? Sitting most of the day is detrimental to your health, but other work-related factors can compromise your well-being, too, Mayo experts say.

Working at a desk is a common cause of back and neck pain, often because you accommodate your workstation rather than the other way around.

For instance, many people strain to see a computer monitor that is too far away, too low, too high, too small or too dim. This compromises good posture.

The average human head weighs almost 12 pounds—the equivalent of a bowling ball. When your neck is bent to 45 degrees, your head exerts nearly 50 pounds of force on your neck. In addition to straining joints and muscles in your neck and shoulders, the pressure affects your breathing and mood.

To alleviate this stress, consider redesigning your workspace to encourage well-aligned posture. The ergonomics—efficiency and comfort level—of a typical workstation can be improved in many ways.

Adjust your workspace

Try these tips to better align your posture:

■ Position your monitor so you can see it well without straining. Raise or lower the monitor or your chair so your eyes are level with the top of the screen. If you wear bifocals, you may need to lower the monitor by another 1 to 2 inches. Move the monitor closer or farther away so you can easily read the screen. Increase the font size you use. If using a laptop, connect it to a larger monitor.

■ Position your mouse and keyboard so you don't have to reach up to use them. Lower your desk height or raise your chair so your forearms are parallel to the floor or pointed slightly downward and your wrists are not pointing upward or downward.

■ Keep frequently used tools within close range to minimize reaching. Keep your mouse nearby, and regularly change it from one side of your body to the other. Use a headset if you talk on the phone frequently. Find shortcut keys you can use while typing. Use a document holder so you don't have to look down frequently.

■ Make sure your chair allows you to maintain the normal curves in your spine, such as the curve in your low back. Raise or lower your chair so you're not sitting straight up at a 90-degree angle, but rather with a slightly reclined posture of 100 to 110 degrees.

■ Make sure your feet touch the ground when you're seated. Consider using a stool if you've elevated your chair and your feet no longer reach the ground. Maintain a couple of inches between the back of your knees and the chair.

■ If your chair has armrests, make sure they allow your shoulders to relax. Consider lowering or getting rid of the armrests so your neck and shoulders can relax downward.

Take a break

Try these tips to give yourself a break from sitting or looking at a screen:

■ Set a timer and get up every 30 minutes. Take a walking meeting, or stand or exercise during a conference call.

■ Follow the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, give your eyes a 20-second break by focusing on something at least 20 feet away.

■ Create a standing workstation.

©2021 Mayo Clinic News Network. Visit newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Life & Style

Crowd surge kills at least 8 at Houston music festival

HOUSTON (AP)—The crowd at a Houston music festival suddenly surged toward the stage during a performance by rapper Travis Scott, squeezing fans so tightly together that they could not breathe or move their arms and killing eight people in the chaos.

The pandemonium unfolded Friday evening at Astroworld, a sold-out, two-day event in NRG Park with an estimated 50,000 people in attendance. As a timer clicked down to the start of the performance, the crowd pushed forward.

"As soon as he jumped out on the stage, it was like an energy took over and everything went haywire," concertgoer Niaara Goods said. "All of a sudden, your ribs are being crushed. You have someone's arm in your neck. You're trying to breathe, but you can't."

Goods said she was so desperate to get out that she bit a man on the shoulder to get him to move.

The dead ranged in age from 14 to 27, and 13 people were still hospitalized Saturday, Mayor Sylvester Turner said. He called the disaster "a tragedy on many different levels" and said it was too early to draw conclusions about what went wrong.

The crowd watches as Travis Scott performs at Astroworld Festival at NRG park on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021 in Houston. AP

"It may well be that this tragedy is the result of unpredictable events, of circumstances coming together that couldn't possibly have been avoided," said Judge Lina Hidalgo, Harris County's top elected official. "But until we determine that, I will ask the tough questions."

Experts who have studied deaths caused by crowd surges say they are often a result of density—too many people packed into a small space. The crowd is often running either away from a perceived threat or toward something they want, such as a performer, before hitting a barrier.

G. Keith Still, a visiting professor of crowd science at the United Kingdom's University of Suffolk, has testified as an expert witness in court cases involving crowds. He said he usually does not look at eyewitness reports in the early stages of analyzing an incident because emotions can cloud the picture, and witnesses can see only what's immediately around them.

Based on fire codes, the venue could have held 200,000 people, but city officials limited the attendance to 50,000, Houston Fire Chief Samuel Peña said.

"It was the crowd control at the point of the stage that was the issue, especially as the crowd began to surge toward the stage," Peña said.

The deaths called to mind a 1979 concert by the Who where 11 people died as thousands of fans tried to get into Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. Other past crowd catastrophes include the deaths of 97 people in an overcrowded Hillsborough Stadium in 1989 in Sheffield, England, and numerous disasters connected with the annual hajj in Saudi Arabia.

People in the Houston crowd reported lots of pushing and shoving during the performances leading up to Scott's set.

Then when Scott took the stage, the crowd seemed to rush to the front, trying to get closer to the stage, said Nick Johnson, a high school senior from the Houston suburb of Friendswood who was at the concert.

"Everyone was passing out around you, and everyone was trying to help each other. But you just couldn't move. You couldn't do anything. You can't even pick your arms up," Johnson said. "It just got worse and worse."

Johnson said fans started to crush each other, and people started screaming. He said it felt like 100 degrees in the crowd.

Brazilian singer and Latin Grammy winner dies in plane crash

SAO PAULO (AP)—Marília Mendonça, one of Brazil's most popular singers and a Latin Grammy winner, died Friday in an airplane crash on her way to a concert. She was 26.

Mendonça's press office confirmed her death in a statement, and said four other passengers on the flight also perished. Their plane crashed between Mendonça's hometown Goiania and Caratinga, a small city in Minas Gerais state located north of Rio de Janeiro.

Minas Gerais state's civil police also confirmed Mendonça's death, without providing details about the cause of the accident, which occurred shortly before arrival. Photographs and videos show the plane laying just beneath a waterfall; Mendonça had posted a video this afternoon showing her walking toward the plane, guitar case in hand.

Mendonça

The rising star performed country music, in Brazil called sertanejo. She was known for tackling feminist issues in her songs, such as denouncing men who control their partners, and calling for female empowerment.

On Friday evening, the news triggered an outpouring of sadness on social media from all corners of Brazil, including fans, politicians, musicians and soccer players. Her Instagram account has 38 million followers.

"I refuse to believe, I just refuse," Brazil soccer star Neymar, who is a friend of Mendonça's, said on Twitter after the news broke. Brazil's government also offered its condolences.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro also used social media to mourn the passing "of one of the greatest artists of her generation."

"The entire country receives the news in shock," he said.

Her album "Em Todos os Cantos" won her the 2019 Latin Grammy for best sertanejo album. She was nominated for the same award this year for "Patroas."

Mendonça was also famous for her romantic songs, often expressing the loss of loved ones. "You always make me cry, you're unique and eternal," said fan Michelle Wisla on Twitter.

Mendonça leaves behind a son, who will turn 2 years old next month.

Cheating husband obsesses over cheating wife's lover

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for 21 (mostly) happy years. However, last year I had an affair that lasted for several months. I confessed to my wife, and we separated for about a month while I tried to evaluate what I should do. In the end, I returned home and asked for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Obviously, my wife has struggled with my infidelity, but, to her credit, she's trying hard to make things work. During our separation, we had little contact, and she told me that for revenge she had slept with someone else. I know that what's good for the goose is good for the gander, but the guy is less than half our age, and I'm struggling with the mental image and thoughts of trying to match his level of stamina and energy (if you know what I mean).

I know I messed up, but I love my wife with my whole heart and I'm working hard to demonstrate it. How do I purge my thoughts of the image of my wife with another man?

REMORSEFUL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR REMORSEFUL: It may not be easy. (Don't you think your wife has had similar mental images of you and the woman you cheated with?) Infidelity hurts everyone involved. You and your wife are working to remain reunited. Concentrate on that rather than preoccupy yourself with your insecurities, and you'll both be better off.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am medically healthy and in my mid-60s. I have two adult children, and my grandchildren range in age from 14 to 20. I have a loving relationship with everyone. However, my family members are self-involved and have indirectly expressed that they do not want me to live with them when I am no longer able to live by myself.

I have raised the subject and seen eyerolls and facial gestures between them. My daughter lives several states away and has said I'm welcome in her home—but as a "snowbird" only. Abby, I don't want to be placed in a nursing home, only to be abandoned and alone. What do you advise?

UNWANTED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR UNWANTED: Because your children are averse to you eventually living permanently with them, start now to prepare for the time when you may no longer be able to live by yourself. Begin by talking to friends—of both genders—and find out if they may have a similar problem. If they do, consider banding together and buying a house or a condo together so you can help each other. This has worked for other seniors and it may be the solution to your problem.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My teenage grandson plays on his middle school's football team. He is a great player, but the team never wins. It's hard to watch him play his heart out when the team loses in the 38-0 range. I'm proud of his efforts, and I want to encourage him to continue to do his best no matter what the final score is. Do you have any suggestions on the healthiest way to sympathize with him about the loss without discouraging him?

PROUD OF HIM IN THE WEST

DEAR PROUD OF HIM: I think what you are already doing is the right approach. By attending these events, you are telling your grandson how proud you are of the fact that he gives his all when he competes and that you respect him for it. Then take him out for a postgame dinner and a treat.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, SOME SCIENCE PEOPLE ARE COMING TO STUDY ME.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
HAR HAR. THEY THINK I HAVE A "UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP" WITH CAFFEINE.
SIP
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST FLAUNT YOUR RELATIONSHIP IN FRONT OF ME LIKE THIS?
SHE MEANS NOTHING TO ME, LAURA.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON, TOOTHPICKS UNDER MY FINGERNAILS, LEECHES IN MY YOGA PANTS...
THE BUBONIC PLAGUE, A METEOR STRIKE, A CAT-5 HURRICANE, DRINKING MOLTEN LAVA...
I WISH I NEVER ASKED HER WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN A SECOND DATE WITH ME.
SWIMMING WITH PIRANHAS

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

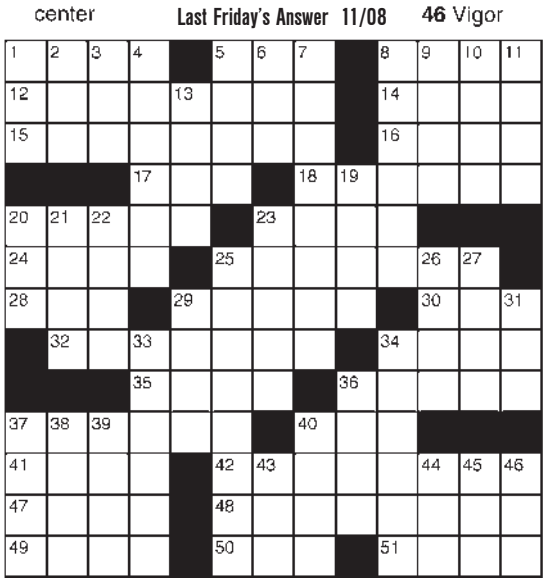
ACROSS
1 — B'rith
5 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
8 Beer ingredient
12 Typical BTS fan
14 Luau strings
15 Sci-fi passage
16 Funny person
17 Mornings, briefly
18 Fire engine sounds
20 Quartz variety
23 Greek salad cheese
24 Pivot
25 Church activity
28 Cauldron
29 Brash
30 "How frustrating!"
32 Vocabulary
34 Apple center
35 Swiss river
36 Orderly grouping
37 Nome's state
40 Blackbird
41 Deep cut
42 Training session
47 Memory method
48 "Scarface"
49 Tag sale words
50 "Of course"
51 Halt

DOWN
1 Texter's "Incidentally"
2 "The Matrix" character
3 — Lingus
4 Prisoner
5 Conceits
6 Director Brooks
7 Keep
8 "Yay!"
9 Tom Joad, for one
10 Drudge
11 Swift jets
13 Words said with a sigh
19 Teeny
20 Nile biter
21 Radiate
22 Car
23 Make a name for oneself?
25 Erode
26 Mr. Stravinsky
27 Law firm aide, for short
29 Minn. neighbor
31 "Psst!"
33 Skin problems
34 Fruity desserts
36 "Diana" singer
37 Taj Mahal site
38 Asian nation
39 Wine region
40 Curved lines
43 Flamenco cheer
44 Stolen
45 Sean — Lennon
46 Vigor

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	O	A		A	P	S	E		R	U	S	T
A	R	C		M	O	O	S		A	B	A	A
S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T		V	E	R	Y
		D	E	L	T			A	E	R	I	E
C	R	E	T	E			D	E	R	N		
H	U	M	S		L	O	V	E	S	E	A	T
A	L	I		S	O	N		A		N	I	A
S	E	A	T	M	A	T	E			A	R	D
			R	U	N	S		R	U	B	C	S
G	R	I	E	G			S	O	I	L		
L	A	W	N		B	A	C	K	S	E	A	T
A	R	O	D		A	L	O	E		R	B	I
M	A	N	Y		M	A	W	R		S	U	M

Last Friday's Answer 11/08



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Osbourne, 36; Parker Posey, 53; Courtney Thorne-Smith, 54; Bonnie Raitt, 72.

Happy Birthday: Compassion and understanding will push you to make changes that lift the limitations and challenges you face and set your dreams free to flourish. Take care of yourself and the things you have put off for so long. Let go of dead weight, and head in a direction that soothes the soul. Set priorities, and make your life meaningful. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 24, 33, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Do what's asked of you, and move forward. Making a fuss will work against you. Observe what others do and say, and monitor partnerships carefully. Learn from the experiences you have; you will handle whatever comes your way with finesse. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't allow someone's uncertainty to stand in the way. Size up what you want to do, then follow through. A change you make will be beneficial if you prepare properly and execute your plans without hesitation. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Tend to money matters quickly. Don't procrastinate or make matters more complicated. Assess what's necessary, and put an end to whatever is making your life miserable. Listen to your heart and the facts, not an outsider trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Push for what you want. It's OK to do things differently, so stand tall and be proud of who you are and what you want. Your grit and knowledge will impress someone who can be beneficial. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take a step back to think before you act. Make sure what's important registers with others before you make changes that can cause upset to those affected by those who work or live within your range. Be mindful of others. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Observe the way you live, the changes you can make to amplify your comfort and the way you treat someone you love. Suggestions that include the people who influence your life most will help turn your intentions and plans into something bountiful. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep an open mind and control of your emotions. Baby steps will help you achieve your objective in an orderly fashion. Pay attention to what's going on around you, and focus on balance and stabilization. Do not try to dominate and take over. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider challenges with optimism, and you'll find an original solution. Share your ideas and concerns with someone you love. Inclusion will encourage togetherness and strength in achieving what you set out to do. Choose peace and love over divisiveness. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A strict budget is encouraged. Don't let your generosity take over. Stick to what you need and afford. Offer help, not cash, when assisting others. Diplomacy and following protocol will help you avoid difficult situations. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Show how you feel, and pay close attention to the reaction you receive. Body language will be a sure sign of what's to come. Shake things up by trying a different approach when it comes to emotional matters. Use information wisely. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Ask questions, formulate and develop based on your findings, then proceed with caution. Getting involved in a joint venture will be taxing. Don't complicate matters; when in doubt, walk away from situations and start over. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep an open mind and a closed wallet. Choose to work alone and to do things your way. A change you make will give you a different perspective on how best to use your skills. Update credentials and promote what you do best. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are mesmerizing, personable and insistent. You are original and outspoken.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		3		5	1		
	1				2		5	7
3		8			6	9		
4	9	5						2
7				6		4	9	1
		4	9			2		5
8	7		2				4	
		9	6		4		3	

Difficulty Level ★ 11/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	6	3	2	5	7	8	4	9
9	5	4	1	6	8	2	7	3
2	8	7	4	3	9	6	1	5
7	9	6	8	4	3	1	5	2
5	4	1	6	9	2	7	3	8
3	2	8	7	1	5	9	6	4
4	7	9	3	2	6	5	8	1
8	1	2	5	7	4	3	9	6
6	3	5	9	8	1	4	2	7

Difficulty level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WILLIE GARSON (1964-2021) **Solution: 13 letters**

S	E	T	U	O	B	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	P
X	F	E	V	E	R	P	I	T	C	H	A	N	A	D
B	R	R	R	E	A	D	X	F	I	L	E	S	T	O
O	I	E	H	T	D	F	O	C	U	S	Z	E	H	N
O	E	D	E	I	F	S	O	T	S	A	H	K	E	A
K	N	E	A	H	A	A	T	R	M	M	E	I	N	L
E	D	V	V	W	C	E	E	A	U	C	Z	L	P	D
R	S	L	E	H	E	T	N	I	N	Z	I	Ⓨ	E	A
E	P	E	N	M	S	T	D	E	O	F	T	Ⓑ	R	Y
N	O	B	A	B	A	E	W	M	Y	D	O	Ⓤ	I	B
E	F	R	O	K	M	H	C	O	L	L	A	Ⓡ	O	R
G	Y	M	E	A	A	M	E	N	T	A	L	D	D	E
A	R	N	D	R	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	A
D	A	T	T	H	E	R	O	C	K	Y	M	O	N	K
E	V	I	F	F	O	Y	T	R	A	P	L	A	C	E

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/8

About, Ally, American, Booker, Face, Coach, Collar, Dads, Daybreak, Donald, Fever Pitch, Focus, Fops, Friends, Heaven, Like, MADtv, Mary, Medium, Meet, Mental, Mobsters, Monk, Mozzie, Mr. Belvedere, Nathen, Newhart, Party of Five, Paszamant, Periods, Place, Read, Renegade, Ruby, Salvation, Stanford, Taken, The Rock, Vary, White, X-Files

Last Friday's Answer: Yacht

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

76ers extend win streak to 6 after beating Bulls again

CHICAGO (AP)—Joel Embiid had 30 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to their sixth straight victory, 114-105 over the Chicago Bulls on Saturday night.

Furkan Korkmaz matched his career best with seven 3-pointers and added 25 points for the Sixers, who topped Chicago for the second time in four nights.

Zach LaVine had 32 points and DeMar DeRozan added 25 for Chicago.

The Bulls led 97-96 after LaVine ended a 10-0 run with a 3-pointer with 5:48 to play, but Embiid answered with a 3 a minute later and the Sixers never trailed again. Korkmaz gave Philadelphia a bit of a cushion with his final 3-pointer with 3:03 left and the Bulls played catch-up the rest of the way.

Embiid finished the Bulls with the last of his four 3-pointers with 15 seconds left.

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid reacts to Chicago Bulls fans after hitting a 3-point shot late in the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Bulls on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, in Chicago. AP

Trail Blazers 105, Lakers 90

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard scored 25 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and Portland took advantage of short-handed Los Angeles.

Jusuf Nurkic added 15 points and 17 rebounds for the Blazers, who led by as many as 34 points despite playing the second of a back-to-back.

Former Blazer Carmelo Anthony had 12 points off the bench for the Lakers, who were without LeBron James because of an abdominal strain.

Leading scorer Anthony Davis was questionable for the Lakers going into the game with a thumb strain. He started but played just seven minutes before leaving with a stomach illness.

Russell Westbrook, who was averaging 20.2 points, 8.4 rebounds and 8.1 assists, shot 1 for 13 and finished with eight points and seven rebounds.

Suns 121, Hawks 117

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 38 points, Frank Kaminsky added 16 off the bench and Phoenix rallied from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta.

Mikal Bridges found Kaminsky streaking down the middle of the lane for a dunk with 45 seconds left that gave the Suns a 116-115 lead, their first of the final quarter. After Atlanta's Trae Young missed a 3-pointer, Booker hit Jae Crowder for a layup and a 118-115 advantage.

Bogdan Bogdanovic shot an airball on an off-balance 3-point attempt with 15 seconds left that effectively ended the Hawks' chances.

Phoenix has won four straight and moved to 5-3 this season. Atlanta has lost five of six and fell to 4-6.

Young led Atlanta with 31 points and 13 assists. John Collins added 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Mavericks 107, Celtics 104

In Dallas, Luka Doncic hit a high-arching 3-pointer at the buzzer, another magical moment for the All-Star to give Dallas a victory over Boston.

Doncic took the inbound with 11 seconds remaining, dribbled past midcourt toward the left wing and lifted the shot over former teammate Josh Richardson, who was facing the Mavericks for the first time since an offseason trade.

Doncic finished with 33 points to 32 for fellow All-Star Jayson Tatum, who bounced back from two rough shooting nights to help Boston rally from a 17-point halftime deficit.

Heat 118, Jazz 115

In Miami, Tyler Herro scored 29 points, Kyle Lowry had his 19th triple-double and Miami held off Utah.

Miami led by 19 points with 5 minutes remaining but the victory wasn't assured until Donovan Mitchell missed a 3-pointer in the closing seconds.

Lowry finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Jimmy Butler scored 27 points for the Heat, making two free throws with 10.4 seconds remaining after Utah had cut it to 116-115.

Mitchell finished with 37 points and Mike Conley added 18. Mitchell sat out Thursday's game in Atlanta because of a sprained right ankle.

Nuggets 95, Rockets 94

In Denver, Nikola Jokic blocked Jae'Sean Tate's drive to the basket as time ran out and the short-handed Denver escaped with a victory over Houston.

Jokic finished with 28 points and 14 rebounds as the Nuggets won despite the absence of forward Michael Porter Jr.

Porter left the game with 4:50 remaining in the first quarter and didn't return because of what the team called lower back soreness. Porter missed a fast-break layup early in the game and came up the court gingerly. He stayed in the game for more than four minutes before leaving.

Christian Wood had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Houston. Daniel Theis scored 18 points in his return to the lineup.

NBA: Firm will probe Suns after report of racism, misogyny

PHOENIX (AP)—The NBA has asked a law firm to investigate the Phoenix Suns after a published report on Thursday detailed allegations that owner Robert Sarver has a history of racist, misogynistic and hostile incidents during his 17-year tenure in charge of the franchise.

ESPN said it talked to dozens of current and former team employees for the story, including some who detailed inappropriate behavior by Sarver. Most of the allegations are from anonymous sources but a few are on the record.

In ESPN's report, Sarver denied or disputed most of the allegations through his legal team. The Suns also strongly denied the report in a lengthy statement released Thursday.

"I would entirely welcome an impartial NBA investigation which may prove our only outlet for clearing my name and the reputation of an organization of which I'm so very proud," Sarver said.

Sarver will get his wish. The NBA released its own statement from executive vice president of communications Mike Bass saying the allegations were "extremely serious" and that the league has asked the Wachtell Lipton law firm to "commence a comprehensive investigation."

"The NBA and WNBA remain committed to providing a respectful and inclusive workplace for all employees," Bass said. "Once the investigation is completed, its findings will provide the basis for any league action."

Among the allegations: Former Suns coach Earl Watson said Sarver was upset that Golden State forward Draymond Green used the N-word during a game in 2016 and that the owner repeated the N-word several times when voicing his displeasure. Watson said he told Sarver that he can't use that word.

Watson was the Suns' coach for all or part of three seasons before being fired three games into the 2017-18 season.

Sarver said in his statement that Watson was "clearly not a credible source."

"While there is so much that is inaccurate and misleading in this story that I hardly know where to begin, let me be clear: The n-word is not part of my vocabulary," Sarver said. "I have never called anyone or any group of people the n-word, or referred to anyone or any group of people by that word, either verbally or in writing. I don't use that word."

Watson released his own statement through the Toronto Raptors, where he is now an assistant coach.

"I am not interested in engaging in an ongoing battle of fact," Watson said. "Instead, I want to applaud the courage of the numerous players, executives, and staffers for fighting toxic environments of racial insensitivity, sexual harassment, and micro-aggressions with their truth.

"Basketball and 17 years in the NBA has allowed me the financial privilege to speak my truth, but we can't forget about those who must remain silent for fear of losing their jobs."

The report also details a story about how Sarver passed around a picture of his wife in a Suns bikini to employees. The report says more than a dozen employees also said Sarver had a history of "making lewd comments in all-staff meetings."

The Suns hosted the Houston Rockets on Thursday night and Phoenix coach Monty Williams addressed the report before the game. Williams—who is Black—said he hadn't talked with Sarver since ESPN's story was published and that if he had heard the owner say any of the things that were alleged in the story "I wouldn't be in this seat."

"My reaction is it's a lot to process," Williams said. "There's so many things there and for me it's still not clear, as far as the facts are concerned. As someone who is the caretaker of the program, I find all of these things that are being said serious in nature. These allegations are sensitive—that's an understatement."

Williams added that he would understand if any of his players didn't want to play on Thursday because of the situation, but said none of them had expressed that sentiment to this point.

Suns guard Devin Booker—who is the team's longest-tenured player at seven years—was the only one on the current roster who played for Watson.

He said Watson was credible and added "that's my guy" but said he didn't know about the Watson-Sarver interaction until he read ESPN's story.

"I wasn't aware of the situation," Booker said. "In my seven years I've been here, I haven't noticed that, but that doesn't make me insensitive to the subject. I think the NBA opened an investigation, they'll do their due diligence of bringing out facts instead of he said, she said. I'm sure the NBA has it in good hands and will do the proper research to find out the truth."

The NBA Players Association said in a statement that it was "continuing to review the allegations in today's ESPN story. We view these allegations as serious and applaud the League's decision to conduct an investigation. We will defer any further comments until that process has been concluded."

In ESPN's story, Bass said the NBA had not "received a complaint of misconduct at the Suns organization through any of our processes, including our confidential workplace misconduct hotline or other correspondence."

Sarver has owned the Suns since 2004. The 59-year-old Phoenix businessman also owns the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury.

The Suns are coming off one of the most successful seasons in their history, making the NBA Finals with stars Devin Booker, Chris Paul and Deandre Ayton before losing in six games to the Milwaukee Bucks. The Suns also made the finals in 1976 and 1993 but have never won a championship.

Wentz acquisition paying dividends with Indy in playoff hunt

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts took a calculated risk by trading for Carson Wentz in March.

Halfway through the season, the move is paying big dividends.

Wentz has helped the Colts navigate their way from a 1-4 start back into the playoff picture with three wins in their last four games and his confidence appears to be growing by the week.

"He's been playing a lot of good football," coach Frank Reich said after Indy steamrolled the New York Jets 45-30. "He had a couple things at the end of the last game but he was flawless (Thursday). He was stinkin' flawless—except for the pass to Nyheim (Hines), which he should have hit that one. That was a bad throw."

Wentz hasn't been perfect, as two poor throws in the final 7 1/2 minutes against Tennessee attest. Those interceptions and that overtime loss could cost the Colts (4-5) a shot at the AFC South title.

There have been other bumps along the way. He was intercepted on a goal-line shovel pass to Jack Doyle in Week 2, a potentially decisive play in what turned out to be a 27-24 loss to the Los Angeles Rams. He couldn't quite close out what looked like an almost certain victory at Baltimore, though that was not entirely his fault.

But the stats and the game tape don't lie.

Despite limited offseason work with his new teammates, missing most of training camp because of foot surgery and spraining both ankles against the Rams, Wentz's completion percentage is back in the mid-60s. He's on pace for a career-high 4,152 yards in the league's first 17-game season, and he's thrown 17 TDs with three interceptions.

"I think we're making good progress, I think he's making great progress," Reich said. "I think if before the year started and we took a poll and said: 'Nine games into it Carson is going to have 17 TDs and three interceptions, would you take that?'

"I think we all would."

Wentz also is throwing more deep balls, an indication he and his receivers are increasingly working from the same page. Playing behind an offensive line that has steadily become healthier and stronger also has helped, and with Jonathan Taylor in contention for the league rushing title, Wentz has everything he needs to fulfill the potential scouts saw when he was the No. 2 overall draft pick in 2016.

All he has to do now is cash in.

"I am so encouraged by what I am seeing offensively and how we're able to move the ball in so many different ways," Wentz said Thursday night. "Coach (Reich) does a tremendous job keeping defenses on their toes, and I look forward to more of that the second half of the season."

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Carson Wentz (2) is tackled by New York Jets' Shaq Lawson (50) during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021, in Indianapolis. AP

WHAT'S WORKING

Running game. Indy finished with a league-high 260 yards rushing against a run defense that was ranked No. 7. Taylor clearly has kicked it into high gear with four 100-yard games this season and a league-best streak of six straight games with 100 or more yards from scrimmage and a TD.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Pass rush. When the Colts struggle, it's largely because opposing quarterbacks have picked apart an injury-depleted secondary. Yes, staying healthy would help. So would more consistent pressure.

STOCK UP

Hines. As Taylor delivers the highlights, Hines is the ideal complementary back. He had a nifty 34-yard TD run to start the scoring Thursday and finished with six carries for 74 yards while catching four passes for 34 yards. The Colts already rewarded Hines with a three-year contract extension.

STOCK DOWN

Three-time Pro Bowl CB Xavier Rhodes has struggled this season in part because of injuries. A blown coverage led to the Jets' first score Thursday and it's not the first time he's been beaten this season. Indy needs the 31-year-old Rhodes to play better.

INJURIES

While the injury news has improved since an early rash, the Colts continue to take hits. Starting safety Kahri Willis (calf) is now on injured reserve, RT Braden Smith (triceps) and Rhodes (calf) did not finish Thursday's game. Reich had no updates Friday.

KEY NUMBER

7—The Colts are one of seven AFC teams with four wins and might need seven more wins to make the playoffs.

NEXT STEPS

A second straight victory would put Indianapolis at .500 for the first time this season. The Colts have been playing better since their brutal five-game stretch to open the schedule. But to make the playoffs—and win in the postseason—they must start beating some playoff-caliber teams.

Peterson savoring chance at playing in NFL again with Titans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Adrian Peterson had been working out regularly to stay in football shape, even dipping around corners to test his eyes as he mimicked cutting back toward a sliver of daylight.

He kept swiping away the thought that no NFL team might call again. That his career might be over after 14 seasons, 14,820 yards rushing, seven Pro Bowl berths and the MVP award in 2012.

Then the Tennessee Titans called. Not only an NFL team, but a franchise currently sitting atop the AFC with a big lead in its division. A big change from his last two teams.

"It's wonderful," Peterson said Friday.

Starting the clock on a likely Pro Football Hall of Fame nod will have to wait.

The Titans (6-2) need help replacing NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry after the two-time rushing champ had foot surgery Tuesday. They signed Peterson on Tuesday to the practice squad and promoted him to the 53-man roster Friday. His 15th season will start Sunday night in Los Angeles against the Rams (7-1).

Tennessee Titans running back Adrian Peterson answers questions after an NFL football practice Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, in Nashville, Tenn. AP

"Yes, it's been a while huh?" Peterson said. "About 10 months. But I feel good, so they call my number I'll go out there and contribute any way that I can. I do a great job of keeping my body in shape physically and mentally and just keeping myself prepared for a moment like this."

Peterson may not have been with a team since his lone season in Detroit ended. But he's been working out in Texas, especially on a track to keep his legs and lungs ready to run.

He joined a team that's banged-up and in need of slower practices. Peterson hit the field going fast with his fresh legs. Another reason Peterson is so excited? The Titans' offense runs the kind of inside and outside zone plays that fit him perfectly.

"You think of the ideal situation for a running back like me and my style, it would be this right here," Peterson said. "So I'm just going to live in the moment and enjoy it and do whatever they asked me to do."

The Titans are Peterson's sixth NFL team. Minnesota drafted him seventh out of Oklahoma in 2007, and he played 10 seasons for the Vikings. He split the 2017 season between New Orleans and Arizona. Peterson played for Washington in 2018 and 2019 before spending last season with Detroit.

Peterson won't be wearing the No. 28 that he wore with Minnesota, New Orleans and Detroit. That number currently belongs to Titans running back Jeremy McNichols.

When Peterson has debuted with a new NFL team, he has made quite an impression. He has run for at least 100 yards twice and topped 100 yards from scrimmage four times. That includes last season when he ran for 93 yards and had 21 yards receiving in the Lions' season opener against Chicago.

This is the second time the Titans have added a player with a Hall of Fame resume. In 2010, the Titans started 5-3 when they were the only team to put a claim in for wide receiver Randy Moss. The Titans lost seven of eight with Moss and finished 6-10 in coach Jeff Fisher's final season with the franchise.

Who starts against the Rams remains to be seen. McNichols, a fifth-round pick out of Boise State in 2017 by Tampa Bay, has never started an NFL game and has carried only seven times for 38 yards this season. He's been a third-down specialist, excelling on screens with 21 catches for 203 yards this season.

Peterson said he saw Henry as the front-runner for MVP, so replacing him means a group effort.

"I want to do whatever I can do to help this team continue to be successful," Peterson said.

Roke Alcantara to coach Triton Baseball team

The Triton Athletics Department today announced Roke Alcantara Jr. as the new head coach for the varsity men's Triton Baseball team.

"Baseball runs in my veins and is a big part of my life, a big part of my family tradition," Alcantara said. "[…] I remember the days when I was younger in the international program playing against the UOG Tritons — just looking up to those guys, watching them play as a team as our only university on the island. […] We want to see the legacy resurrect itself through our work and our teamwork."

Alcantara has more than 30 years of experience playing baseball as a pitcher, outfielder, and first baseman. He plays in the Guam Major League and has been on the Guam national baseball team, representing Guam in international competition, since 2002. He won gold medals in the 2003 South Pacific Games in Fiji and the 2002 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei and was the league MVP in 2001 for George Washington High School, which won the interscholastic baseball championship.

He also brings 10 years of coaching experience, including several local Little League teams, ages 4 to 12, which have competed in stateside competitions.

"Roke will get us connected to the high schools and to the youth programs on the island that will start feeding players into UOG baseball," said Doug Palmer, the UOG athletics director. "UOG baseball has a long history, a very good history with championships. We are confident Roke will bring us back to those championships and make Hall of Famers again."

Triton Athletics announced the relaunch of its baseball team in October 2019, but the program's opening season was stifled by the pandemic the following spring. The university's original baseball program ran from the 1970s to the 1990s.

From left, Lawrence Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success at the University of Guam; Roke Alcantara Jr., head coach for the Triton Baseball team; and Doug Palmer, athletics director for the University of Guam. TRITON ATHLETICS

"Athletics in any university is important for student life," said Lawrence Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, the division at UOG that oversees Triton Athletics. "It builds a lot of the leadership and team [mindset]—not just for the student athletes, but for those who are fans from the outside."

As Alcantara starts to build the Tritons roster, he asked for the community's support and encouraged current and upcoming UOG students to come out for the team, saying there is a future in baseball beyond the university as well.

"We're going to start here at the university right out of high school, but it's not going to stop there. […] We also want to groom these young men to represent our island," he said, referring to international competitions like the Pacific Games and the Oceania Baseball Championship.

Outside of baseball, Alcantara is a local small-business owner. He has owned Mighty Purple Café in Hagåtña since 2016. He is also a reservist with the U.S. Air Force.

The Triton Baseball team plans to make its debut this coming spring in the Guam Major League. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	8	2	.800	—
Brooklyn	6	3	.667	1½
New York	6	3	.667	1½
Toronto	6	4	.600	2
Boston	4	6	.400	4

Southeast Division

Miami	7	2	.778	—
Washington	6	3	.667	1
Charlotte	5	5	.500	2½
Atlanta	4	6	.400	3½
Orlando	2	8	.200	5½

Central Division

Chicago	6	3	.667	—
Cleveland	6	4	.600	½
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	2
Indiana	3	7	.300	3½
Detroit	1	8	.111	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	6	3	.667	—
Memphis	5	4	.556	1
San Antonio	3	6	.333	3
New Orleans	1	9	.100	5½

Northwest Division

Utah	7	2	.778	—
Denver	5	4	.556	2
Portland	5	5	.500	2½
Minnesota	3	5	.375	3½
Oklahoma City	2	6	.250	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	7	1	.875	—
Phoenix	5	3	.625	2
Sacramento	5	4	.556	2½
L.A. Clippers	4	4	.500	3
L.A. Lakers	5	5	.500	3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	229	109
New England	4	4	0	.500	206	164
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	.250	144	251
Miami	1	7	0	.125	138	233

South

Tennessee	6	2	0	.750	227	195
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	245	213
Jacksonville	1	6	0	.143	123	203
Houston	1	7	0	.125	119	241

North

Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	187	164
Cincinnati	5	3	0	.625	220	162
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	132	142
Cleveland	4	4	0	.500	183	180

West

Las Vegas	5	2	0	.714	180	166
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	172	177
Denver	4	4	0	.500	157	137
Kansas City	4	4	0	.500	208	220

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	6	1	0	.857	225	162
Philadelphia	3	5	0	.375	203	191
N.Y. Giants	2	6	0	.250	156	200
Washington	2	6	0	.250	156	227

South

Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	260	183
New Orleans	5	2	0	.714	176	128
Carolina	4	4	0	.500	165	159
Atlanta	3	4	0	.429	148	195

North

Green Bay	7	1	0	.875	192	167
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	163	157
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	123	195
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	134	244

West

Arizona	7	1	0	.875	246	138
L.A. Rams	7	1	0	.875	245	168
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	168	171
Seattle	3	5	0	.375	181	169

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CUTTING

From Page 20

one thing going for him coming into the competition was that he owned his own gym.

"I maintained a pretty good physique year-round. I diet 12-13 weeks out from the show. I wasn't honestly going to compete until last week. I was supposed to just guest pose for Dee (bodybuilding competition organizer Dee Clayton), but I always want to support one way or the other. I also have my clients that compete. But when I heard it was her 10th year anniversary, I figured I should support her and jumped in as a competitor. I just signed up last week," he added.

The U.S. Army sergeant first class admitted that the sport is not only a hobby for him, but also kind of a religion already.

"Bodybuilding, health, and fitness is my passion. I have fun putting my body through grueling training and dieting programs to see how far I can push myself to come out better than last time. My only competition is myself from the last show. I strive to beat my old self each time," he said.

Cutting, however, remains humble and said he pretty much is a big fish in a small pond when it comes to bodybuilding.

"There are hundreds of thousands if not millions of better physique competitors in this world than me. As long as I beat my old self, then I feel I did my job. I look up to many of those pro-level athletes and strive to develop the self-discipline they have. I've competed in seven different shows over the years. I placed in all of them but only took the overall win a few times."

The Paxton, Massachusetts native dedicated his victory in the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic to his wife Tania, who he admitted as a love-hate relationship with him competing.

"She supports me and is proud to see me dedicate myself so devoutly to a goal, but often when us competitors are 'on diet' and carb-depleted we get angry and kind of snappy. But she's a trooper and is always reminding me to practice my posing and critiques me when I'm creating my routines. She's also my backstage assistant who tans and glazes me before my stage performance."

Cutting also gave kudos to Clayton, who he describes as the CNMI's mother of fitness and bodybuilding.

"She does so much for the competitors and fitness community on Saipan and we all appreciate her dedication to the sport! This was her 10-year anniversary which is the main reason I decided to compete locally again," he said.

Results of the other categories of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

SBL

From Page 20

The Tan Ko baseball field has been out of commission since the harrowing winds of Super Typhoon Yutu damaged the facility.

Santos aid the process of permitting and breaking ground will take 4-5 months and since it's already October, the earliest the Tan Ko baseball field would be ready is March if they break ground this month.

"We were hopeful since July that they've already broken ground and they've already started but obviously that's not the case…There was supposed to be a meeting between the (Northern Marianas Sports Association) and the Public Assistance Office where the GAR is at but from what I've got from NMSA it didn't happen."

Santos added that the pipe-dream was that Tan Ko baseball field will be ready by the end of January, as they were planning to welcome a college team from South Korea to do their Spring training on island. He said it would've been the perfect opportunity to scrimmage against that South Korean college baseball team.

"Another best-case scenario is starting up a league in February to allow the national team to compete with other teams here until April and then after that further train and be prepared for the Mini Games in June…That's the best-case scenario we thought would work out but we're at the whim of GAR and anyone else involved," he said.

The SBL president said their woes are in complete contrast to how rivals Guam and Palau have been preparing for next year's Mini Games

"We're very aware of Guam and Palau's preparations for the Mini Games. Palau has a new and beautiful hybrid field with Astro-turf infield and grass on the outfield…That doesn't sit well with us but we have to make use of what we have… We're very envious [with what Palau and Guam have been doing]."

National team tryouts

Santos, who joined the rest of the SBL board in a press conference last Thursday to present Manny Sablan as the manager of the national team, said they've already actually met with some of the players interested in trying out for the national team.

"I'm impressed with the turnout a few weeks back when around 40 showed up [during a meeting]. Some board members said these were just half the guys. The impression I got is there are guys who are hungry to compete. We could put a team made up of guys who are not only hungry to compete but also understand the importance of playing in our home turf and playing for gold."

To this end, Santos said SBL started its national team tryouts last Saturday with strength and conditioning coach Joey Tudela.

"We want anybody who wants to try out for the team to get involved with conditioning. We feel like their involvement and commitment to conditioning would send a message that they're committed to this team. And by the end of December or sometime after the holidays we should be able to return and start cutting guys until we get down to our final 20. We actually are going to cut down to 30 as we have 10 alternates or practice guys," he said.

Santos also realizes that since there's been no SBL season the last couple of years, a number of those trying out probably will not be in baseball shape.

"We will focus on conditioning in the next 3-4 weeks. These guys maybe in softball condition. They maybe in golf condition. We want these guys in baseball condition. Anybody can come out. We will get attendance and get everyone's contact details. You might be the best player the CNMI has ever had, but if you don't make the commitment to conditioning and practice like everyone else, then you won't make the team."

Aside from Tudela, who was handpicked by SBL, Manny Sablan also chose his coaching staff and they are Derron Flores and Gary Cruz.

"Going back to the coaching staff, we're really optimistic that they will bring these guys together into a team that will really gel and understand the importance of bringing back the gold," said Santos.

TENNIS

From Page 20

about teamwork, as we did the clean up fast and successful. We finished cleaning up all four courts and other areas in one day," Tan said.

The NMITA officials said that the courts were full off algae, very slippery, and are not safe for play, especially during the rainy season.

"We are always after the safety of the players, especially now that more people are getting back to the court or training for upcoming tournaments," Tan said.

Players and their parents were thankful to the NMITA and the volunteers for the initiative and look forward to playing in a much cleaner and safer facility.

This weekend, the tennis community will have its first tournament for the 2021-2022 season with the staging of the 11th TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

The competition will run from Nov. 12 to 15 for the juniors events and from Nov. 19 to 21 for the adults. The tournament was supposed to kick off late last month, but was rescheduled as safety measure against the recent COVID-19 cases in the community.

Besides the TanHoldings Tennis Classic, the NMITA will also have tournaments from January to April next year, both in juniors and adults divisions, while players may also utilize the AMP courts for training for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games that will take place on Saipan from June 17 to 25. ***(PR)***

76ers extend win streak to 6 after beating Bulls again PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Roke Alcantara to coach Triton Baseball team PAGE 19

Cutting tops bodybuilding tilt

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Derek Cutting was a cut above the competition in winning the overall bodybuilding competition in last Saturday's 2021 Dee Clayton Classic at the Saipan World Resort.

Judges Jonas Barcinas, Dan Chase, and Ferdinand Lagmay all gave Cutting 3 points each for a total of 9 points for the 40-year-old owner of Latte Built Gym.

It was sort of a successful return for the U.S. Army reservist as he hasn't competed locally since winning the overall title in the same event back in 2015.

"It's fun. It's my passion. It's my sport of choice. I haven't competed locally since 2015, but I competed in 2018 in Guam. I was supposed to go to Hawaii for the Shawn Ray Classic in 2018 but we got hit by Super Typhoon Yutu then. So it was like 46 weeks into training and two weeks before competition Yutu hit and I couldn't leave because I had military orders," he said.

Cutting beat out Stanley Iakopo and Lorenzo Sanchez in the bodybuilding competition with the former earning 2 points each from chief judge Barcinas, Chase, and Lagmay for a total of 6 points, while latter got 3 points with a point each from the judges. Cutting, Iakopo, and Sanchez all went home with trophies for best middleweight, lightweight, and middleweight, respectively. Iakopo, who is the executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, also won Best in Abs.

Cutting, who did a guest posing in the 2019 Dee Clayton Classic, said

See CUTTING on Page 19

Derek Cutting won the overall bodybuilding competition of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday night at the Saipan World Resort. MICHAEL JORNAL

The Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field hasn't hosted a Saipan Baseball League game since Super Typhoon Yutu hammered Saipan in October 2018. MARK RABAGO

SBL 'worried' when 'Tan'Ko' repairs will be done

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Baseball League is getting nervous with only a little over 220 days before the CNMI hosts its first-ever Pacific Mini Games and the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field still far away from being repaired.

SBL president Jay Santos said the tryouts for the CNMI National Baseball Team needs a practice field and once they've chosen the final 20 players they need the Tan Ko baseball field to start a new SBL season or play exhibition games, at the very least.

"I've been given all the assurance in the world by the governor's authorized representative [Patrick C. Guerrero] that there will be a field that'll be ready. To be frank with you guys and I'm not really good at being politically correct and the board knows this, I'm worried and I've expressed my concern to anyone who'd listen to me," he said.

See SBL on Page 19

Volunteers, left photo, clean one of the four tennis courts at the American Memorial Park last Saturday, while right shows the before and after picture of the baseline of Court 3. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tennis players, officials clean AMP courts

Northern Marianas Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race and treasurer Lydia Tan led a cleanup drive at the American Memorial Park tennis courts last Saturday.

The two NMITA officials were joined by junior and adult players in water-blasting all four courts, wall courts, and the walkway along the bleachers area, and bush cutting the backside of the sport facility.

"Great effort from everyone who came out and helped. Thank you to Lydia Tan for making this happen and to TanHoldings for providing the equipment," Race said.

Tan, on the other hand thanked the AMP management and chief ranger Jason Tinley for allowing the NMITA to clean up the court. The association also acknowledged the staff of Realty Management Services for their assistance in the cleanup that ran from 9am to 6pm.

"Thank you to all who came out to help and volunteer their time. It's all

See TENNIS on Page 19